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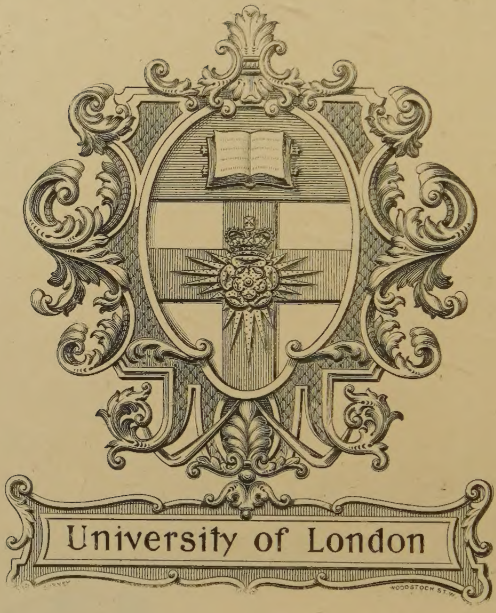

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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

6 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CLVIII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF MAY TO THE EIGHTEENTH DAY OF JUNE, 1906.

SEVENTH VOLUME OF SESSION

1906.

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CHRONOLOGY OF "THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

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SEVENTH VOLUME OF SESSION, 1906.

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Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

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The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1); London Government Schemes (London and Penge, etc.). Also the Certificate that no further Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:—Ritz Hotel [H.L.].

And also the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Ascot District Gas; Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1

Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 2

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—Order for the Third Reading To-morrow, discharged 2

Dover Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 2

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 2

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Bill, on being reported, should be referred to the Chairman of Committees, in order that certain proofs and consents may be given in respect thereof; read, and agreed to. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amend-Amendments; and recommitted for To-morrow 2

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Kent Electric Power Bill [H.L.].—The King's Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 3

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 3; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons 3

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill [H.L.]; County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [H.L.]; Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill [H.L.]; Southport and Lytham Tramroad (Extension of Time) Bill [H.L.]; Newtonards Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [H.L.]; Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [H.L.]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Electric Supply) Bill [H.L.]; Crellin's Patents Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Churches Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^{a}; and passed, and sent to the Commons 3

Great Eastern Railway Bill.—Read 3^{a}, and passed 3

New Mills Urban District Council Bill; North-East Lincolnshire Water Bill.—Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 3

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Marriages Provisional Order Bill.—House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^{a} To-morrow .. 3

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill (No. 104); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill (No. 105); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill (No. 106); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill (No. 107); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill (No. 108); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill (No. 109); Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill (No. 110); Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill (No. 111). Brought from the Commons and read 1^{a}; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners 4

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Elections (Meetings in School Rooms) Bill [H.L.].—Petition for Amendment of; of metropolitan borough of Wandsworth; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 4

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Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 4

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Shop Hours Act, 1904.—Orders made by the councils of the following boroughs fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the respective boroughs. Borough of Hyde. Borough of Merthyr Tydfil. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table 4

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British and Foreign Shipping.

Lord Muskerry 4

Moved, "That there be laid before the House a Return showing the legal obligations of the owners of merchant vessels trading under the flags of Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Japan, Italy, Russia, Denmark, Spain, Austro-Hungary, Netherlands, Greece, and Belgium towards their captains, officers, and seamen with regard to the following:—Old age pensions, pensions to widows and orphans, accident compensation, Sunday labour, daily hours of labour at sea and in port, payment for work performed in excess of fixed hours of labour, medical treatment, accommodation, and passages of distressed seamen; also including in such a Return the regulations of these different countries for the preservation of discipline on board their merchant ships."—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

The Earl of Granard 8

On Question, Motion, as amended, agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (Registration of Patent Agents) Bill [H.L.].—Report of Amendments received.

The Earl of Granard 9

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'If' to insert the words 'with intent to deceive.'"—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

Lord Coleridge 10
Lord Alverstone 10
The Lord Chancellor (Lord Loreburn) 11
The Marquess of Salisbury 12

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—
"In Clause 2, page 1, line 9, to leave out the word 'knowingly.'"—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Granard 13

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Amendment moved—

"In Clause 3, page 1, line 21, to leave out from the word 'any' to the end of the clause, and to insert the words 'person who was prior to the commencement of this Act *bona fide* practising as an agent for obtaining patents in the United Kingdom, and whose name is for the time being entered on a list kept by the Board of Trade in the prescribed manner. (2) Every person who proves to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade that prior to the passing of this Act he had been practising as an agent for obtaining patents shall, on making application for the purpose within six months after the passing of this Act, and on payment of the prescribed fee, be entitled to have his name entered on the list unless his name has been erased from the register of patent agents or the Board of Trade are satisfied that he has been guilty of such an offence or misconduct as would have rendered him liable, if his name had been on the register, to have his name erased therefrom. (3) The name of a person on the list may be erased therefrom on any ground on which a name on the register may be erased therefrom. (4) In this section 'prescribed' means prescribed by general rules under the Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Act, 1883, as amended by any subsequent enactment."—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Granard 13

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, lines 4 and 5, to leave out the words 'unless the context otherwise requires.'"—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Coleridge 14

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 5, after the word 'corporate' to insert the words 'and its successor." —(*Lord Coleridge.*)

The Earl of Granard .. ..

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

VOLUNTEER RIFLE RANGES.

Lord Newton 14
The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) 16
The Earl of Donoughmore 17

THE CASE OF MR. J. A. NELSON.

Lord Muskerry 18
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Elgin*) 19

Juvenile Smoking Bill. [H.L.]

Moved, that the following Lords be named of the Select Committee, viz., E. Dartmouth, V. Selby, L. Bp. Ripon, L. Aberdare, L. Heneage.—(*Lord Denman.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 20
Lord Reay 20
The Earl of Dartmouth 21
The Lord President of the Council (*The Earl of Crewe*) 21

On Question, Debate adjourned.

CHINESE CUSTOMS.

Lord Reay 21
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 23
The Marquess of Lansdowne 25

TURKEY AND PERSIA.

Lord Reay 26
Lord Fitzmaurice 27

House adjourned at five minutes before Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 28TH MAY, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH)—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords]; Crediton Gas Bill [Lords]; Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords]; London and North-Western Railway Bill [Lords]; Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 28

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow 28

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Derby Gas Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 29

Pontefract Corporation Bill (KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).—Bill read the third time, and passed 29

Rochester, Chatham, and Strood Gas Bill—Read the third time, and passed 29

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 29

Lancashire Electric Power Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 29

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill [LORDS] [not amended].—Considered; to be read the third time 29

Metropolitan Water Board Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 29

Clacton Urban District Council Bill [LORDS]; Glamorgan and South Wales Water Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 29

Haslingden Corporation Bill [LORDS]; Havana United Railways and Regla Warehouses Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 29

Maryport Harbour Bill [LORDS]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 29

St. Pancras Electricity Bill (BY ORDER).—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 29

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).—Read the third time, and passed 29

Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill; Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 29

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill.—As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed 30

ELECTRIC POWER AND SUPPLY BILLS.—Ordered, That the Memorandum of the Commissioners of Works on Electric Power and Supply Bills [Command Paper 2930], be referred to the Committee on the Hackney Electricity Bill. —(*Mr. Harcourt*) 30

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; Great Eastern Railway Bill, without Amendment.

Amendments to—Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill [Lords]; Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society Bill [Lords]; Milford Docks Bill [Lords]; Mirfield Gas Bill [Lords]; without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the county borough of Newport with regard to the health, improvement, and good government of the borough; and for other purposes." [Newport Corporation Bill [Lords] 30

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Newport Corporation Bill [**Lords**]—Read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 30

PETITIONS.

EAST INDIA AND CHINA (OPIUM TRAFFIC).—Petition from Penarth, for suppression ; to lie upon the Table 30

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against ; from Wandsworth , and Gayton ; to lie upon the Table 30

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law ; from Aldwincle ; Firle ; Mundham and Hunston ; North Mundham and Hunston ; Scissett ; Soho ; and South Kensington ; to lie upon the Table 30

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.—Petition from Brighton, for legislation ; to lie upon the Table 31

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.—Petition from Lambeth, against ; to lie upon the Table 31

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.—Petition from Bridport, against ; to lie upon the Table 31

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Regulations for Secondary School (from 1st August, 1906, to 31st July, 1907 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 31

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNTS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1898.—Copy presented, of Return showing the Total Payments into and out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account for the financial year 1905–6 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 31

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3,600 to 3,604 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 31

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 651 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 31

COLONIES (COLONIAL ACTS, ROYAL ASSENT).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 28th March ; *Colonel Legge*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 184] 31

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copies presented, of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Hyde and Merthyr Tydfil and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department fixing the Hours of Closing for Barbers' Shops within the Boroughs [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table 31

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Copy presented, of Statistical Tables for the year 1905 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 31

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PENSIONS AND SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES.—Return ordered, "Showing the number of Persons in receipt of Pensions or Superannuation Allowances granted by the under-mentioned Local Authorities in England and Wales and the amounts expended by the Local Authorities in the payment of such Pensions and Superannuation Allowances during the year ended the 31st March, 1906, viz.: County Councils, Town Councils, Visiting Committee of Lunatic Asylums, the Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police, Metropolitan Borough Councils, the Corporation of the City of London, Boards of Guardians, Managers of Sick Asylum and School Districts, the Managers of the Metropolitan Asylum District, and the Metropolitan Water Board."—(*Mr. Barnes*) 32

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Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported: That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing) Shipping and Manufactures: Mr. Lane-Fox; and has appointed in substitution: Mr. Haddock.

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Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Bill.—"To enable Provisional Orders to be made for regulating Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries," presented by Sir Edward Strachey; supported by Sir Edward Grey: to be read a second time upon Thursday, 7th June, and to be printed. [Bill 235] 101

Musical Copyright Bill—"To amend the law relating to Musical Copyright," presented by Mr. T. P. O'Connor; supported by Mr. Balfour, Mr. John Redmond, Sir Alfred Thomas, Mr. Enoch Edwards, Mr. Keir Hardie Mr. Crombie, and Mr. Sloan; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 7th June, and to be printed. [Bill 236] 101

Tied Houses (Abolition) Bill—" To provide for the abolition of Tied Houses," and to secure freedom for holders of licences for the sale of beer, ale, or spirituous liquors," presented by Mr. Ernest Lamb ; supported by Sir George Kekewich, Mr. Alden, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Jenkins, Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Morton, and Dr. Rutherford ; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 7th June, and to be printed. [Bill 237] 102

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Business of the House (Education (England and Wales) Bill).

Motion made, and Question put, " That the proceedings on Clause 1, Education (England and Wales) Bill, if under discussion at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 330 ; Noes, 148. (Division List No. 97) .. 102

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Motion made, and Question proposed, " That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Law relating to Labourers in Ireland, and to make provision with respect to the application of portion of the Ireland Development Grant."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 112

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Bryce and Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland.

Labourers (Ireland) Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to Labourers in Ireland, and to make provision with respect to the application of portion of the Ireland Development Grant," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, June 13th, and to be printed. [Bill 239.]

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

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Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, at the end, to add the words 'And unless provision is made that religious instruction shall not be given therein during school hours, nor at the public expense.' "—(*Mr. Maddison.*)

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'during school hours, nor.' "—(*Mr. Chamberlain.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

Mr. Samuel Evans (*Glamorganshire, Mid*) 116
Sir William Anson (*Oxford University*) 123
The President of the Board of Education (*Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.*) .. 127
Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) 135
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 139
Mr. Blake (*Longford, S.*) 143

Mr. Birrell rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 366 ; Noes, 179. (Division List No. 98.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 367 ; Noes, 172. (Division List No. 99.)

Mr. Birrell claimed, "That the Main Question be now put."

Main Question put accordingly, "That the words 'And unless provision is made that religious instruction shall not be given therein during school hours, nor at the public expense' be there added."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 63 ; Noes, 477. (Division List No. 100.)

Mr. Luttrell (*Devonshire, Tavistock*) 161

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, at end, to add the words 'and carried on in premises owned by that authority.' "—(*Mr. Luttrell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (*Mr. Lough, Islington, W.*) 162
Mr. George White (*Norfolk, N.W.*) 162

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir William Anson 163

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down, by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

But the said Private Business having been deferred till to-morrow, the proceedings on the Education (England and Wales) Bill were resumed.

[Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

Sir William Anson 169

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, at the end, to add the words 'and unless provision is made by bye-law or otherwise for the religious instruction during school hours of the children attending the school in accordance, so far as possible, with the wishes of their parents, whether such instruction be or be not permitted under Section 14 of The Elementary Education Act, 1870.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. Lough 166
Sir Francis Powell (*Wigan*) 168
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (*Aston Manor*) 170
Mr. Middlemore (*Birmingham, N.*) 173
Mr. Carlile (*Hertfordshire, St. Albans*) 174
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) 178
Mr. Wyndham (*Dover*) 180
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 185
Mr. Birrell 189
Sir E. Carson (*Dublin University*) 192
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 195
Colonel Williams (*Dorsetshire, W.*) 196

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes, 367 (Division List No. 101.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 205
Mr. Birrell 208
Mr. F. E. Smith (*Liverpool, Walton*) 211
Sir George Doughty (*Great Grimsby*) 213
Lord R. Cecil 215
Lord Helmsley (*Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk*) 217
Mr. Haddock (*Lancashire, North Lonsdale*) 219
Mr. J. F. Mason (*Windsor*) 220

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Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 358 ; Noes, 169. (Division List No. 102.)

Question put accordingly, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 365 ; Noes, 162. (Division List No. 103.)

Committee report progress ; to sit again upon Monday, June 11th.

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Monday evening, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty-eight minutes before Two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS : TUESDAY, 29TH MAY, 1906.

Commission.—The following Bills received the Royal Assent :

1. Post Office (Money Orders).
2. Seed Potatoes Supply (Ireland).
3. County of Aberdeen (Monymusk Bridge and Road) Order Confirmation.
4. Cathcart District Railway (Superfluous Lands) Order Confirmation.
5. North Berwick Corporation Order Confirmation.
6. Metropolitan Police Provisional Order.
7. Crystal Palace Company.
8. Dover Harbour Board.
9. Kidderminster Gas.
10. H. R. Baines and Company.
11. Vauclain's Patent.
12. Bethnal Green Borough Council (Superannuation).
13. Millwall Dock.
14. Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway.
15. Sheffield Assay Office.
16. Carlisle Corporation.
17. Manchester and Milford Railway.
18. North Metropolitan Tramways.
19. Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society.
20. Milford Docks.
21. Mirfield Gas.
22. Thornton Urban District Gas.
23. Accrington District Gas and Water Board.
24. Great Eastern Railway.
25. Knott End Railway (Extension of Time).
26. Wallis' Divorce 233

Several Lords took the Oath 233

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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway; North and South Shields Electric Railway; Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply; London Brighton, and South Coast Railway; London United Tramways; Manchester Corporation.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 233

Standing Orders Committee.—Report from, that the further Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed 234

Read, and agreed to.

Portsmouth Water Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 234

South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.]; Truro Gas Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]; reported, with Amendments 234

Alexander (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railways Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with a further Amendment 234

Southampton Gas Bill—Reported, with an Amendment 234

Holyhead Water Bill [H.L.].—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to 234

Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill H.L.].—Read 2^a, and committed 234

Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed, the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 234

Ritz Hotel Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a (according to order) 234

Trent Navigation Company Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a; an Amendment made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons 234

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway (Purchase) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a; an Amendment made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons .. 234

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Epsom and Ewell Gas Bill; Huddersfield Corporation Bill; Bacup Corporation Bill; Cardiff Gas Bill; Uxbridge Gas Gill; Macclesfield and District Tramways Bill; Midland Railway Bill; London and South Western Railway Bill; Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; viz., E. Lauderdale (chairman), E. Bathurst, V. Falmouth, L. Kilmaine, L. Kensington; agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly; the Committee to meet on Tuesday, the 26th of June next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions

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referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 235

Derby Gas Bill; Pontefract Corporation Bill; Rochester, Chatham, and Strood Gas Bill; Cheltenham Gas Bill; Edinburgh Corporation Bill; Metropolitan Railway Bill; South Suburban Gas Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª, and referred to the Examiners 235

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill.—Brought from the Commons, and read 1ª; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners. (No. 112) 235

Educational Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order), Bill reported without Amendment, Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday the 14th of June next.. 235

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Marriages Provisional Order Bill.—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed 235

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L].—Read 2ª (according to order) .. 235

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—Read 2 (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday the 14th of June next. 235

London Government Schemes (London and Penge, &c.) Bill.—Read 2ª according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 235

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of Onslow in the Chair.]

Clauses 1, 2, and 3 agreed to.

Clause 4:—

Lord Monkswell 235
The Earl of Camperdown 236

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 4, to insert the following new Clause—'And whereas in the exercise of the powers of this Act it may happen that portions only of the lands, buildings, or manufactories shown on the deposited plans may be sufficient for the purposes of the same, and that such portions may be severed from the remainder of the said properties without material detriment thereto; therefore notwithstanding Section 92 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, the owners of and other persons interested in the lands, buildings, or manufactories shown on Plan No. 6, and distinguished thereon by the Nos. 1 to 21, and on Plan

No. 8, and distinguished thereon by the No. 2, and described in the schedule to this Act, and whereof parts only are required for the purposes of this Act, may, if such portions can in the opinion of the jury, arbitrators, or other authority to whom the question of disputed compensation shall be submitted, be severed from the remainder of such properties without material detriment thereto, be required to sell and convey to the council the portions only of the premises so required without the council being obliged or compellable to purchase the whole or any greater portion thereof, the council paying for the portions required by them, and making compensation for any damage sustained by the owners thereof and other parties interested therein by severance or otherwise.' "—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord Monkswell 238

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to

Remaining clause agreed to, and Bill reported with Amendment to the House.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.—Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools, of teachers in schools at Salesbury; Bolton; Waterhead Oldham; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 238

EDUCATION.—Petitions in favour of maintenance of existing religious education in Church of England Schools, of parents and guardians of children attending schools in Bolton (2); Salesbury; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 238

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDIA (ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES, 1906–1907).—Explanatory memorandum by the Secretary of State for India. 239

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Statistical Tables for the year 1905 239

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Calendar of the manuscripts of the Marquis of Ormonde, K.P., preserved at Kilkenny Castle. New Series, Vol. IV.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 239

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Orders made by the councils of the following metropolitan borough, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the respective boroughs—Lambeth; Battersea

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 239

JOURNAL COMMITTEE.—Report from, that the general index to ten volumes of the Journals, viz.,from the one hundred and twenty-sixth to the one hundred and thirty-fifth, both inclusive (57th and 58th Vict.—3rd Edw. VII.) is ready for delivery: The same to be delivered in the usual manner ..239

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TRADE REPORTS: (ANNUAL SERIES).—No. 3601. Spain (Canary Islands); No. 3602. Germany (Pomerania); No. 3603. Netherlands (Curaçoa); No. 3604. Peru (Iquitos) 239

MISCELLANEOUS.—No. 651. French Mercantile Marine Laws 239

TREATY SERIES No. 6, 1906.—Treaty between the United Kingdom and Spain for the marriage of His Majesty the King of Spain with Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria Eugenie Julia Ena; signed at London, May 7th, 1906. (Ratifications exchanged at London, May 23rd, 1906.) 239

Conveyancing Bill [H.L.]; SETTLED LAND BILL [H.L.]; MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY BILL [H.L.].—The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out, except to members of the Committee, and such other persons as the Committee shall think fit, until further order (No. 113) 240

Wireless Telegraphy Bill.—Reported from the Standing Committee without further Amendment: The Report of the Amendment made in Committee of the whole House to be received on Thursday, June 14th next .. 240

Colonial Marriages Bill [H.L.]—Reported from the Standing Committee with an Amendment; The Report thereof to be received on Friday, June 15th next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 114.) 240

Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills.—Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 92, and 93, be suspended; and that the time for depositing petitions praying to be heard against Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, also the time for depositing Documents relating to any Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, which would otherwise expire during the adjournment of the House at Whitsuntide, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess 240

Reserve Forces Bill. [SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Under Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) 240

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^{a}."—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

The Earl of Donoughmore 242

On Question, Bill read 2^{a}, and Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday the 14th of June next.

Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Bill. [SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Portsmouth 242

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^{a}."—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

The Earl of Halsbury 244

On Question, Bill read 2^{a}, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thusday the 14th of June next.

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Police Superannuation Bill.—Order of the day for the Third Reading read:

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

Earl Beauchamp 245

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 17, to leave out sub-section (1); and in line 28, to leave out the word 'two' and to insert the word 'three'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Lord Newton 246
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 247
The Marquess of Lansdowne 247

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill passed and returned to the Commons.

Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (Registration or Patent Agents) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 247

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o'clock, to Thursday, the 14th of June next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 29TH MAY, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the clock.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went, and, having returned,

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills. (See page 233) 248

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 248

Cheltenham Gas Bill; Edinburgh Corporation Bill. Read the third time, and passed 248

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Metropolitan Railway Bill (King's Consent Signified).—Bill read the third time, and passed 248

South Suburban Gas Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 248

South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 248

Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Bill [Lords] (by Order).—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 248

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 241.] 248

London County Council (Money) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 249

Mersey Railway Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments (Title amended); Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 249

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 249

Railway Bills (Group 4).—Sir George Doughty reported from the Committee on Group 4 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday, 12th June, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 249

Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment Bill.—Second Reading upon Tuesday, 26th June.. 249

Message from the Lords.—That they have agreed to—Police (Superannuation) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Marriages Provisional Order Bill, without Amendment.

New Mills Urban District Council Bill; North East Lincolnshire Water Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Law relating to Patent Agents." [Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (Registration of Patent Agents) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for granting the use of Schoolrooms for Public Meetings." [Elections (Meetings in Schoolrooms) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate the West Yorkshire Tramways Company; and to empower that Company to make and maintain tramways, tramroads, and other works; and for other purposes." [West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords.]

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Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company to widen certain railways and to construct other works; to acquire additional lands; and for other purposes. [Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for conferring further powers upon the County of Durham Electric Power Supply Company; and for other purposes." [County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Company; and for other purposes." [Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the time for taking certain lands and for the construction of certain authorised works by the Southport and Lytham Tramroad Company and the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Southport; and for other purposes." [Southport and Lytham Tramroad (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend, extend, and define the borrowing powers of the Urban District Council of Newtownards in the county of Down; to improve and enlarge the gas undertaking of the said Council; and to make further provisions for the local government of their district." [Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for conferring further powers on the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company, and for effecting certain amendments of the Acts which regulate the Company; and for other purposes." [Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for uniting into one drainage district the two drainage districts in the parish of Warboys, in the County of Huntingdon, known as the First and Third Drainage Districts, constituted under an Act of the fifteenth year of King George the Third, chapter fifteen; and to amend that Act; and for other purposes." [Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for transferring to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Company, Limited, the undertakings authorised by the Whitley and Monkseaton Electric Lighting Order, 1901, and the Seghill, Earsdon and Tynemouth (Rural) Electric Lighting Order, 1902; and for other purposes." [Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for rendering valid certain Letters Patent granted to John Caeser Crellin for inventions for (1) An appliance for raising, lowering, supporting, and transporting portions of machinery and the like; (2) Improvements relating to lifting-jacks; and (3) Improved apparatus for raising, lowering, supporting, and transporting portions of machinery and like uses." [Crellin's Patents Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the closing and sale of certain churches in the city of Manchester, the extinction of certain ecclesiastical parishes and the merger thereof in other parishes in the said city; and for other purposes." [Manchester Churches Bill [Lords.]

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Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Trent Navigation Company to construct certain new works for improving the Navigation of the River Trent between Wilden Ferry and Gainsborough, to confer further powers upon the Company; and for other purposes." [Trent Navigation Company Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for matters consequent on the purchase by the Secretary of State in Council of India of the railways and other property of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company; and for other purposes." [Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway (Purchase) Bill [Lords.] 249

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill [Lords]; County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [Lords]; Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill [Lords.] Southport and Lytham Tramroad (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]; Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords]; Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [Lords]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Electric Supply) Bill [Lords]; Crellin's Patent Bill [Lords]; Manchester Churches Bill [Lords]; Trent Navigation Company Bill [Lords]; Bombay, Baroda, and Central India (Purchase) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 251

PETITIONS.

Borough Court (Dublin) Bill.—Petition from Dublin, in favour; to lie upon the Table 252

Building Lands (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table 252

Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Petition from Dunnikier, in favour; to lie upon the Table 252

East India and China (Opium Trade).—Petitions for suppression; from Edinburgh; and Galston; to lie upon the Table 252

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Adwell and South Weston (two); Alvechurch; Ashurst; Baglan (two); Broadway; Burstow; Chadderton; Colne (two); Felmersham; Felmersham with Radwell; Heanor; Knottingley (two); Manchester; Pen Selwood; Playford and Culpho Ruswarp; Stalham; Stambermill; Stopsley; Sutton Bridge with Wingland; Swanton; and Swanton Morley; to lie upon the Table .. 252

Education of Defective Children (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table 252

Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act (1854) Amendment Bill.—Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table 253

Local Government (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table 253

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) (NO. 2) BILL.—Petitions in favour; from Caithness; and Haddington; to lie upon the Table 253

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration; from Cheltenham; Oxford; and Wigan; to lie upon the Table 253

SMALL HOLDERS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table 253

SMALL TENANTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table 253

STREET BETTING BILL.—Petition from Nelson, in favour; to lie upon the Table 253

TRADES UNIONS AND TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petition from Aberdeen, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 253

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.—Petition of the Strand Union, against; to lie upon the Table 253

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES (No. 6, 1906).—Copy presented, of Treaty between the United Kingdom and Spain for the Marriage of His Majesty the King of Spain with Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria Eugénie Julia Ena. Signed at London, 7th May, 1906. Ratifications exchanged at London, 23rd May, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 253

EAST INDIA (ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES, 1906–7).—Copy presented, of Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Inida [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 253

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Copy presented, of Calendar of the Manuscripts of the Marquess of Ormonde, K.P., preserved at Kilkenny Castle, New Series, Vol. IV. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 254

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Hairdressers' and Barbers' Shops within the Borough [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 254

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Battersea, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the borough [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. 254

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3605 to 3607 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 254

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Miscellaneous Series, No. 652 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 254

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WARLIKE OPERATIONS (KILLED AND WOUNDED).—Address for " Return of the number of sailors and soldiers killed or wounded in war or warlike operations carried on by the Government of this country and chartered companies during the years 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1903, respectively (exclusive of those carried on by the Government of India), in the same form as the Return granted in Session 1895."—(*Mr. Morton.*) 254

EDUCATION ACT, 1902 (RATES RAISED UNDER SECTION 18 (1).—Return ordered, " by the County Council of each Administrative County in England and Wales, except London, of particulars as to the amounts received during the year ended the 31st day of March, 1906 (or, if the particulars are not available, then during the year ended the 31st day of March, 1905) from rates raised under Section 18 (1) (c) and (d) of The Education Act, 1902, over parts only of the area under the Council for purposes of Elementary Education.—

Name of Parish.	Assessable Value according to the County Rate Basis.	Amount of rate raised under (Section 18 (1).	Rate in the £.

(*Mr. Birrell.*) 254

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.—Return ordered, " of Applications for Licences under The Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1904, showing how each Application has been dealt with, and of Statistics of Messages to and from Ships at sea exchanged between the Post Office and the Marconi Company during each quarter from January, 1905, to March, 1906, inclusive."—(*Mr. Dickinson.*) .. 255

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

DYEING OF NAVY CLOTH.—Question, Mr. Bright (Oldham) ; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 255

DELAYS IN THE OPERATION OF THE LAND ACT.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Bryce 256

EVICTED TENANTS ON THE COOLROE ESTATE. — Question, Mr. Ffrench (Wexford, S.) : Answer, Mr. Bryce 257

SALARIES OF SCHOOL TEACHERS AT HANDSWORTH.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 257

IRISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY'S GRANT.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Bryce 257

APPOINTMENTS IN THE SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR'S GOVERNMENT.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.) ; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 258

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.—Question, Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Churchill 259

CAMBRIDGE COTTAGE, KEW, AS A FORESTRY MUSEUM.—Question, Captain Balfour (Middlesex, Hornsey) ; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 260

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Revenue Bill.—"To amend the Law relative to Customs and Inland Revenue, and for other purposes connected with Finance," presented by Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer; supported by Mr. McKenna; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 12th, and to be printed. [Bill 240.] 301

Finance Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Mr. Courthope (*Sussex, Rye*) 301

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out the word 'five,' and insert the word 'four.'"—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question put, "That the word 'five' stand part of the clause."

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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 255 ; Noes, 150. (Division List No. 104.)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

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Mr. Harmood-Banner (Liverpool, Everton) .. 337
Mr. Asquith .. 338
Mr. Austen Chamberlain .. 339

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 266 ; Noes, 44. (Division List No. 105.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Harwood (Bolton) .. 343
Mr. Brace (Glamorganshire, S.) .. 345
Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) .. 347
Mr. John Wilson (Durham, Mid.) .. 349
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Mr. Asquith .. 352
Mr. T. L. Corbett .. 353
Mr. Fell (Gt. Yarmouth) .. 354
Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow) .. 355

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

Motion made, and Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill." The Committee proceeded to a Division.

Mr. WHITELEY and Mr. JOSEPH PEASE were appointed Tellers for the Ayes ; but no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes, the Chairman declared that the Ayes had it.

Clauses 4 and 5 agreed to.

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Clause 6 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Harold Cox (*Preston*) 357
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 358
Mr. Fell 359
Mr. Asquith 360
Mr. Victor Cavendish 360
Mr. Rawlinson (*Cambridge University*) 361
Mr. Chiozza Money (*Paddington, N.*) 362

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 7 and 8 added to the Bill.

Mr. Bridgeman (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) 363

New clause—

"The excise duty of 15s. for every hackney carriage, as defined in Clause 4 of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act of 1888, shall be and is hereby repealed."

Question proposed, "That this clause be read now a second time."

Mr. Asquith 364

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill, reported, without Amendment ; to be read the third time upon Monday, June 11th.

Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

The Under-Secretary of State for India (*Mr. John Ellis, Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe*) 365

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this Bill be now read a second time."

Question put, and agreed to.

Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) 366
Mr. J. Chamberlain (Birmingham, W.) 367

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Chairman do report Progress ; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. J. Chamberlain.*)

Captain Craig (Down, N.) 368
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 368
The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Herbert Samuel, Yorkshire, Cleveland) 369
Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby) 370
Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid.) 370
Mr. A. J. Balfour 371
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. George Whiteley, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) 372

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 47 ; Noes, 244. (Division List No. 106.)

Original Question again proposed.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, and objection being taken to further Proceeding, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

Adjourned at a quarter after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS : WEDNESDAY, 30TH MAY, 1906.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

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Watford and Edgware Railway Bill.—As amended, considered ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time 377

London County Council (General Powers) Bill (BY ORDER).—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 377

PRIVATE BILLS, ETC.—Ordered, That Standing Orders 39, 128, and 230 be suspended, and that the time for depositing Petitions and Memorials against Private Bills, or against any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Pro-

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visional Certificate, and for depositing duplicates of any Documents relating to any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, also for depositing at the Private Bill Office all Documents relating to any Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the recess.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means*) 377

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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 377

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill (BY ORDER) ; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill (by Order).—Read the third time, and passed 377

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—" To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Brixham, Newlyn, and Torquay," presented by Mr. Kearley ; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George ; read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 242] 378

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill—" To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Loch Claish (Loch Inchard) and Dunoon," presented by Mr. Kearley ; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George ; read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 243.] 378

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill.—" To confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Burnham (Somerset)," presented by Mr. Kearley ; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George ; read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 244.] .. 378

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill.—" To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Lincoln and Uttoxeter," presented by Mr. Runciman ; supported by Mr. John Burns ; read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 245.] 378

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POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration; from Bermondsey; Bewdley; Cricklade; Darlington (two); Hythe (two); Malvern; Oxford; Rutland; Sowerby; Stalybridge; Swindon; and Uppingham; to lie upon the Table 379

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TREATY SERIES (NO. 7, 1906).—Copy presented, of Treaty between the United Kingdom and Nicaragua for the mutual Extradition of Fugitive Criminals. Signed at Managua, April 19th, 1905. Ratifications exchanged at London, February 13th, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 380

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Post Office (Money Orders).—Copy presented, of Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Peru for the exchange of Money Orders, dated December 25th, October 22nd, 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 381

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PARLIAMENTARY POSTAL EMPLOYEES.—Questions, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 416

CUSTOMS EXAMINING OFFICERS.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) .. 417

TRAM TICKET LOTTERIES.—Question, Mr. Billson (Staffordshire, N.W.); Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 418

DUNOON BURGH AUDITOR.—Questions, Mr. Ainsworth (Argyllshire); Answers, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 418

IRISH LAND PURCHASE FINANCE.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) 419

IRISH COUNTY COURT CRIERS.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Bryce 419

IRISH POOR LAW INQUIRY—MEDICAL GRIEVANCES.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Bryce 420

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—REWARDS FOR BRAVERY.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 420

IRISH BOARD OF INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION RULES.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce 421

IRISH FISHING INDUSTRY—SUGGESTED INQUIRY.—Question, Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway); Answer, Mr. Bryce 421

BELFAST POLICE INQUIRIES.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 421

BALLINAMORE RATE COLLECTOR.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce 422

IRISH CATTLE TRADERS' ASSOCIATION AND ARMY MEAT CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce 423

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE—EXAMINERS FOR PROMOTION.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Bryce 423

DUBLIN POLICE INQUIRIES.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Bryce 423

TYRONE RATE COLLECTOR'S DEFALCATION.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Bryce 424

IRISH WORKHOUSE TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 425

DONEGAL AND THE MARINE WORKS GRANTS.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 426

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URBAN LABOURERS' HOUSE LOANS.—Question, Mr. Barrie; Answer, Mr. Bryce 426

DUBLIN POLICE SERGEANTS.—Questions, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answers, Mr. Bryce 426

ROSCREA SUB-LAND COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 427

EVICTED DISTURBANCES.—Questions, Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) and Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 427

IRISH POST OFFICE DOCTORS.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 428

IRELAND AND TARIFF REFORM.—Questions, Mr. Barrie; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 429

UNEMPLOYMENT INQUIRY.—Question, Mr. Barnes (Glasgow, Blackfriars); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 429

COUNTY COURT REFORM.—Questions, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 430

Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill.—Questions, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London), Sir A. Ackland-Hood (Somersetshire, Wellington) Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe), Mr. Crooks (Woolwich) and Mr. Keir Hardie; Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 430

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—SIR WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures:—Sir Henry Fowler; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Hooper.

Report to lie upon the Table 436

NEW BILLS.

Settlement of Paupers Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to the Settlement of Paupers," presented by Mr. Staveley Hill; supported by Mr. Stuart-Wortley, Mr. Samuel Roberts, Mr. G. A. Gibbs, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Lane-Fox, Mr. A. E. W. Mason, Mr. Coates, Mr. H. D. McLaren, Mr. Warner, and Mr. Corrie Grant; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 19th, and to be printed. [Bill 246.] 436

Bills of Exchange Acts (1882) Amendment Bill.—"To amend section eighty-two of The Bills of Exchange Act, 1882," presented by Mr. Attorney-General; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 12th, and to be printed. [Bill 247.] 436

NEW WRITS.

Ordered, That, in all cases where the seat of any Member has been declared void on the ground of Corrupt Practices or Illegal Practices, no Motion for the issue of a New Writ shall be made without two clear days' previous notice on the Notice Paper of the House, and that such Notice be considered before the Orders of the Day and Notices of Motion.—(*Mr. Whiteley*) .. 436

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Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.*) 437

Sir Edward Carson (*Dublin University*) 438

Clause 1 and 2 agreed to.

New Clause proposed.

"The Commissioners shall have the same power, and be under obligation to grant certificates of indemnity to witnesses as is contained in the 5 Edward 7, c. 7, s. 2."—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That this clause be now read a second time."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.*) 438

Clause, as amended, agreed to, and added to the Bill.

Bill, as amended, considered, read the third time, and passed.

Adjournment (Whitsuntide).

Motion proposed, "That this House at its rising this day do adjourn until Thursday, June 7th."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) 439
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs*) 443
The First Commissioner of Works (*Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale*) 445
Mr. Barnes (*Glasgow, Blackfriars*) 448
Mr. Walters (*Sheffield, Brightside*) 452
Mr. Thorne (*West Ham, S.*) 454
Mr. A. Dewar (*Edinburgh, S.*) 456
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 459
Mr. Horridge (*Manchester, E.*) 462
Mr. Crooks (*Woolwich*) 462
The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. John Burns, Battersea*) 466
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 476
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.*) 481
Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 484
Mr. Weir (*Ross and Cromarty*) 485

Mr. Whitley rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question, "That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House at its rising this day do adjourn until Thursday June 7th.—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

EVICTION OF WORKMEN.

Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.) 485
Mr. E. Edward (Hanley) 488
Mr. Walsh (Lancashire, Ince) 490
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 492
Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent) 494

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

Mr. Theodore Taylor (Lancashire, Radcliffe) 494
Dr. Rutherford (Middlesex, Brentford) 500

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House reaffirms its conviction that the Indo-Chinese opium trade is morally indefensible, and requests His Majesty's Government to take such steps as may be necessary for bringing it to a speedy close."—(*Mr. Theodore Taylor.*)

The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 505
Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.) 515

Question put, and agreed to.

INDO-CHINESE OPIUM.

Resolved, That this House reaffirms its conviction that the Indo-Chinese opium trade is morally indefensible, and requests His Majesty's Government to take such steps as may be necessary for bringing it to a speedy close.—(*Mr. Theodore Taylor.*)

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House do now adjourn " —(*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at seven minutes before Eleven o'clock till Thursday, 7th June.

HOUSE OF COMMONS : THURSDAY, 7TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

New Mills Urban District Council Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 517

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 517

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill [LORDS]. —Read the third time and passed, without Amendment 517

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Lancashire Electric Power Bill.—Read the third time, and passed .. 517

Metropolitan Water Board Bill.—Read the third time, and passed. [New Title] 517

St. Pancras Electricity Bill (King's Consent signified).—Bill read the third time, and passed 517

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 517

Mersey Railway Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 517

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill.—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 517

North-West London Railway Bill.—As amended, considered; a clause added; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 517

Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 517

Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords]; Crediton Gas Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 517

Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 518

Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords]; Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 518

Kettering Water Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 518

Barry Railway Bill [Lords] (by Order); Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords] (by Order); Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords] (by Order).—Read a second time, and committed 518

Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [Lords] (by Order); Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill [Lords] (by Order).—Read a second time, and committed 518

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 518

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899.—The Chairman of Ways and Means reported, That, after conferring with the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords, for the purpose of determining in which House of Parliament the respective Bills, under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, should be first considered, they had determined that the following Bills should originate in the House of Lords:—

Buckhaven, Methill, and Innerleven Burgh Extension.

North British Railway.

Report to lie upon the Table 518

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PETITIONS.

East India and China (Opium Traffic).—Petitions for suppression; from Edinburgh and Elgin; to lie upon the Table 518

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petition from Whitworth, against; to lie upon the Table 518

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Churt; Clent; Eaton; Great and Little Saling; Hallaton; St. Columb Major (two); St. Columb Minor; Wells (two); and Worksop; to lie upon the Table 519

Infant Life Protection.—Petitions for alteration of Law: from Mere; and, Pontardawe; to lie upon the Table 519

Local Government (Scotland) (No. 2) Bill.—Petition from Fife, in favour; to lie upon the Table 519

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill [Lords].—Petitions for alteration: from Boston; Bow (two); Bristol; Carlisle; Chorley; Elgin; Gloucester: Halifax; Hebden Bridge; Rossendale; and Thornbury; to lie upon the Table .. 519

Vagrant Children Bill.—Petition from Northwich, against; to lie upon the Table 519

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).

The following Papers, presented by Command of His Majesty during the Whitsuntide Recess, were delivered to the Librarian of the House of Commons during the Recess, pursuant to the Standing Order of the 14th August, 1896:—

1. Trade Reports (Annual Series). Copies of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3608 to 3620.

2. Trade Reports. Copy of Index to Reports of His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Representatives Abroad on Trade and Subjects of General Interest (with Appendix), 1905.

3. Army (Volunteer Corps). Copy of Annual Return of the Volunteer Corps of Great Britain for the year 1905.

4. Board of Education. Copy of Regulations for the Instruction and Training of Pupil Teachers from 1st August, 1906.

5. Poor Law (Scotland). Copy of Reports to the Local Government Board for Scotland on the Burden of the Existing Rates and the General Financial Position of the Outer Hebrides.

Ordered, That the said Papers do lie upon the Table 519

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Education (Scotland).—Copy presented, of Regulations for the Preliminary Education, Training, and Certification of Teachers for various Grades of Schools [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 520

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UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.—Copy presented, of Annual Statistical Report by the University Court of the University of St. Andrews for 1904–5 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 187] 520

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.—Copy presented, of Report on the State of the Finances of the University for the year 1904–5 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 188] 520

LABOURERS' COTTAGES (IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th March; *Mr. Flavin*]; to lie upon the Table 520

LABOURERS' COTTAGES (IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th March; *Mr. Flavin*]; to lie upon the Table 520

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.—Copy presented, of Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery, 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 520

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—Copy presented, of Returns relating to the Council up to 31st March, 1906, with Estimate of Expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 189] 520

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.—Account presented, of the Receipts and Payments under the Act during the year ended the 31st March, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 190] 520

ARKLOW HARBOUR.—Copy presented, of Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners and Statement of Accounts for 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 521

RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways (Abandonment Bill, and the Objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158b]; referred to the Committee on the Bill 521

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3621 to 3624 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 521

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Supreme Court (Rules). Copy of Rules of the Supreme Court, dated 25th May, 1906 [by Act]. 521

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

CASE OF AUXILIARY POSTMAN—ROBERT ARDERLEY.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 521

CARRIAGE OF MAIL BAGS TO RAILWAY STATIONS FROM NORTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Wiles (Islington, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 521

BRISTOL POST OFFICE LEARNERS.—Question, Mr. Montgomery (Somersetshire, Bridgwater); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 522

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Interest on Loans for Carrickfergus.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. McKenna 522

Liquor Traffic in Africa—International Conference.—Question, Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 522

Ordnance Survey Staff.—Question, Mr. W. D. Ward (Southampton); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 523

Service of Clerks to Surveyors of Taxes.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. McKenna 523

Government Supply of Chargers and Saddlery for Indian Cavalry Officers.—Question, Sir Arthur Bignold (Wicks Burghs); Answer, Mr. Morley 524

Belfast Lunatic Asylum Contracts.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 524

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Officers' Eyesight.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) .. 525

Malta Victualling Stores.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddingtonshire) 526

Macedonia.—Question, Mr. Gooch (Bath); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foregin Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) .. 526

Pedlars' Certificates.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 527

Irish Land Act—M'Gillicuddy Estate.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 527

Irish Railways—Preferential Rates.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) 528

Irish Development Grant.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. 582

District Inspector Redmond—Royal Irish Constabulary.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. McKenna 528

The Blennerhasset Estate.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. 529

Supply [10th Allotted Day]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

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ARMY ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,111,000 be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Quarterings, Transport, and Remounts, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907."

Mr. Cobbold (*Ipswich*) 530

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item C be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Cobbold.*)

The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Haldane, Haddington*) 532

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. Arnold-Forster (*Croydon*) 533
Colonel Herbert (*Monmouthshire, S.*) 533
Sir Carne Rasch (*Essex, Chelmsford*) 534
Mr. Morton (*Sutherland*) 535
Mr. Haldane 536
Mr. Lea (*St. Pancras, E.*) 536
Mr. Cochrane (*Ayrshire, N.*) 536

Question put, and agreed to.

2. £4,492,000, Supplies and Clothing.

Mr. Pickersgill (*Bethnal Green, S. W.*) 537
Mr. Haldane 538
Mr. Parker (*Halifax*) 539
Mr. Acland (*Yorkshire, Richmond*) 540
Sir W. Evans Gordon (*Tower Hamlets, Stepney*) 514
Colonel Herbert 542
Mr. Lupton (*Lincolnshire, Sleaford*) 542
Mr. Haldane 543
Mr. Lea 544
Mr. Haldane 545
Mr. Charles Devlin (*Galway*) 547

Vote agreed to.

3. £775,000, Ordnance Department Establishments and General Stores.

Mr. Arnold-Forster 548
Mr. Lea 548
Mr. Harold Cox (*Preston*) 549
Mr. Haldane 550

Vote agreed to.

4. £2,543,000 Armaments and Engineer Stores."

Mr. Morton 553
Mr. Higham (*Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby*) 553
Mr. Cochrane 556
Mr. Abel Smith (*Hertfordshire, Hertford*) 557

Mr. Haldane 558
Mr. Arnold-Forster 560
Mr. Haldane 560
Mr. Branch (*Middlesex, Enfield*) 561
Mr. Ainsworth (*Argyllshire*) 561
Mr. Haldane 561

Vote agreed to.

5. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £2,353,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge of Barrack Construction; for Works, Buildings, and Repairs, at Home and Abroad (including Purchases of Land), and for the Staff in connection therewith, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907."

Mr. Arnold-Forster 562
Mr. Haldane 566
Mr. Maddison (*Burnley*) 567
Mr. Arnold-Forster 568
Colonel Herbert 569
Mr. Morton 571
Mr. Lambton (*Durham, S.E.*) 571
Mr. Bellairs (*Lynn Regis*) 571
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 572
Mr. Haldane 573
Sir W. Evans-Gordon 574

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,352,000, be granted for the said Service."—(*Sir William Evans-Gordon.*)

Mr. Morton 574
Mr. Haldane 574
Lord R. Cecil 575

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 19; Noes, 134. (Division List No. 107.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

6. £132,000, Establishments for Military Education.

Vote agreed to.

7. £77,000 Miscellaneous Effective Services.

Sir Howard Vincent (*Sheffield, Central*) 577
Sir W. Evans-Gordon 578
The Financial Secretary to the War Office (*Mr. Buchanan, Perthshire, E.*) 579
Sir Howard Vincent 580
Lord R. Cecil 580

Vote agreed to.

[Mr. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid) took the Chair.]

8. £1,694,000, Half-pay, Retired Pay, and other Non-Effective Charges for Officers, etc.

9. £1,684,000, Pensions and other Non-Effective Charges for Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Men, and others.

Mr. Arnold-Forster 581
Mr. Cochrane 581
Mr. Haldane 582
Lord R. Cecil 582
Mr. Morton 583
Mr. Haldane 583
Mr. Forster (Kent, Sevenoaks) 584
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) 584
Mr. Morton 585

Vote agreed to.

10. £180,000, Civil Superannuation, Compensation, Compassionate Allowances, and Gratuities.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £559,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for the War Office and Army Accounts Department, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907."

Mr Paul (Northampton) 586

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £558,900, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Paul.*)

Mr. Haldane 593
Mr. Paul 596

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 27; Noes, 110. (Division List No. 108.)

Original Question again proposed.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

CLASS III.

II. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £26,953, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries of the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police, and of the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District, and the Pay and Expenses of Officers of Metropolitan Police employed on special duties, and the Salaries and Expenses of the Inspectors of Constabulary."

Mr. Pickersgill 599

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £26,853, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

Mr. Crooks (*Woolwich*) 600
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.*) 601
Mr. C. Duncan (*Barrow-in-Furness*) 601
Mr. Maddison 601
Sir Howard Vincent 602
Mr. Gladstone 603
Mr. Morton 603
Mr. Corrie Grant (*Warwickshire, Rugby*) 604

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £394,255, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Expenses of the Prisons in England, Wales, and the Colonies."

Mr. Ernest H. Lamb (*Rochester*) 604
Mr. T. P. O'Connor 605
Mr. Gladstone 610

And, it being Eleven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow; Committee also report Progress: to sit again to-morrow.

Musical Copyrights Bill.

Second Reading deferred till To-morrow 612

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 8TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords]; Newtownards Urban District

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Council Bill [Lords]; Newport Corporation Bill [Lords]; Trent Navigation Company Bill [Lords]; Manchester Churches Bill [Lords]; Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [Lords]; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways Bill [Lords]; Southport and Lytham Tramroad (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]; Crellin's Patent Bill [Lords]; Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway (Purchase) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 613

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz. :—Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 613

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next .. 614

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill.

Ordered. That the Bills be read a second time upon Monday next .. 614

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill (King's consent Signified).—Bill read the third time, and passed. [New Title.] .. 614

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [LORDS].—South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 614

Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 614

Metropolitan District Railway Bill (BY ORDER).—Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.] 614

London and North Western Railway Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed 614

Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Forfar Corporation Water," presented by Mr. Sinclair, and ordered (under Section 7 of the Act) to be considered upon Monday next .. 614

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Berry Pomeroy (two); Berwick; Boyton; Castle Combe; Ealing; High Roothing (two); Lambeth; London; Lound; Meole Brace; Maggerhanger; Sclattyn; Sible Hedingham; Stanley; Stepney (two); Streatham (two); Surbiton Hill (two); and Sutton (Notts); to lie upon the Table 615

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.—Petition from Rugby, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 615

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Renfrew, in favour; to lie upon the Table 615

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration; from Cheltenham; Cleveland; Great Yarmouth; Hammersmith; Isle of Wight; Leicester; Morpeth (two); Newport (Mon.); North Carnarvonshire; Northumberland; Plymouth; Stowmarket; Tyneside; and, Wallsend-on-Tyne; to lie upon the Table 615

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.—Petition from Fulham, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 615

SUNDAY TRADING (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Renfrew, in favour; to lie upon the Table 615

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Registration of Teachers and the Abolition of the Register [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 615

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered May 10th; *Mr. Claude Hay*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 191.] 615

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

RENT OF BATTERY PARK, STORNOWAY.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 616

ESCAPE OF LUNATIC FROM MORNINGSIDE ASYLUM, EDINBURGH.—Question, Mr. Stewart (Greenock); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 616

IMPORTATION OF TINNED AND BONELESS MEAT.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. John Burns 617

SCOTTISH CONSTABULARY RECRUITS—STATEMENT BY MAJOR FURGUSON.—Question, Mr. Ainsworth (Argyleshire); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 618

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EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN SERVANTS BY WAR OFFICE OFFICIALS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Haldane 618

ARMY PENSION FOR JOSEPH HOOK, LATE 59TH REGIMENT.—Question, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 619

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Sir A. Acland-Hood (Somersetshire, Wellington); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 619

SUPPLY [11TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £29,050, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant-in-Aid of certain Expenses connected with Emigration."

Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (*Wiltshire, Chippenham*) 620
Mr. Rufus Isaacs (*Reading*) 628
Sir Gilbert Parker (*Gravesend*) 631
The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.*) 636
Mr. Mackarness (*Berks, Newbury*) 642
Mr. Arnold-Forster (*Croydon*) 647
Mr. Rees (*Montgomery Boroughs*) 652
Mr. Walsh (*Lancashire, Ince*) 655

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Walsh.*)

Mr. Churchill 658
Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (*Leicester*) 668
Mr. J. M. Robertson (*Northumberland, Tyneside*) 673
Sir W. Evans-Gordon (*Tower Hamlets, Stepney*) 678
Mr. Brodie (*Surrey, Reigate*) 679

And, it being Five of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

Musical Copyright Bill.—Read a second time, and committed for Monday next 680

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at three minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 11TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz :—West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 681

PRIVATE BILLS (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz :—South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 681

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow 681

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz :—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow 682

Kettering Water Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 682

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [LORDS].—Verbal Amendments made, Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 682

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Mersey Railway Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 682

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed. [New Title] 682

North Sussex Gas and Water Bill [Lords].—Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 682

North-West London Railway Bill (King's Consent signified).—Bill read the third time, and passed 682

London County Council (General Powers) Bill (by Order).—Read the third time, and passed 682

Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill.—Considered ; to be read the third time upon Wednesday 682

PETITIONS.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against : From Checkley ; Edwalton ; Holmesfield ; Narborough ; St. Albans ; Wimborne ; and, Wytham ; to lie upon the Table 682

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law ; from Darwen ; Early Heaton ; Hockerill (two) ; Much Marcle (two) ; Oldham ; St. Andrew's, Manchester ; St. Andrew's, Shenley (two) ; and, Watford ; to lie upon the Table 683

Housing of the Working Classes Acts Amendment Bill.—Petition of the Royal Sanitary Institute, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 683

Juvenile Smoking Bill.—Petition from Leicester and other places, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 683

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill [Lords].—Petitions for alteration ; from Birmingham ; Buckrose ; Bury St. Edmunds (two) ; Bute ; Camberwell, North ; Chelsea ; Darwen (two) ; Dewsbury ; East Grinstead ; East Hull (two) ; Galashiels ; Hallam ; Hawick (three) ; Haywards Heath ; and Wansbeck ; to lie upon the Table 683

Public Health Bill.—Petition of the Royal Sanitary Institute, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 683

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation.—Copy presented, of Second Report of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation for the year 1905 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 683

Shop Hours Act, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the County Borough of Burnley, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Borough [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table 684

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SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.—Copy presented of Treasury Minute dated 5th June, 1906, granting a retired allowance to David Henriques, Engineer, Second Class Engineer in Chief's Departments, Post Office, under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 684

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3625 to 3628 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 684

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

MONAGHAN POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 684

EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN SERVANTS BY ADMIRALTY OFFICIALS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 684

PENSIONS FOR TOWN SUB-POSTMASTERS.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood Benn (Tower Hamlets, St. Georges); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 685

PERSONS UNDER TWENTY-ONE COMMITTED TO PRISON IN LIEU OF PAYMENT OF FINE.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 685

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH ONLY ONE TEACHER.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman (Oswestry); Answer, Mr. Birrell 686

BEER ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH REGIMENTS SERVING IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye); Answer, Mr. Morley 687

LIFE SAVING FACILITIES AT THE MOUTH OF THE TYNE.—Question, Mr. H. J. Craig (Tynemouth); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 687

POSTAL LINEMAN AND FOREMAN.—Question, Mr. J. Williams Benn (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 688

APPOINTMENT OF LEARNER TO VACANCY IN MALLOW POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork County, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 689

SALE OF STAMPS AT NAAS.—Question, Mr. John O'Connor (Kildare, N.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 689

SANITARY CONDITION OF HOUSES IN THE ISLAND OF LEWIS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 689

MIGRATION OF ISLAND OF LEWIS MEN TO THE MAINLAND.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 690

SCOTTISH PRISON OFFICIALS.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 690

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.—Question, Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 691

MOTOR OMNIBUSES IN THE METROPOLIS.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 691

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Irish County Courts—Revenue and Expenditure.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Asquith 692

Sale of Land for Golf Links by the Irish Congested Districts Board.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 693

Sale of Mr. Canning's Grazing Farm at Ballyvany, County Mayo).—Question, Dr. Ambrose; Answer, Mr. Bryce 693

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Greenwich Observatory.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool) and Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham); Answers, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Lambert, Devonport, South Molton) 694

Army Meat Contracts.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) .. 694

Elementary Education in India.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 695

Tibetan Indemnity.—Questions, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham) and Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answers, Mr. Morley 695

The Indian Budget.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Burghs); Answer, Mr. Morley 696

Indian Remount Department—Mr. Benson's Retirement.—Questions, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answers, Mr. Morley 696

Anti-Semitic Disturbances in Russia.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury, for Sir Edward Grey) 698

Gun Running in Zululand.—Question, Colonel Saunderson (Armagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 698

Probate Registries—Appointments.—Question, Mr. Sears; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 698

Storage of Wills.—Question, Mr. Sears; Answer, Mr. Asquith 699

Examination of Estate Affidavits.—Question, Mr. Sears; Answer, Mr. Asquith 699

Deportation of Aliens—Case of Sarah Rosenbaun.—Questions, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend), Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth), Mr. Hills (Durham) and Sir W. Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) .. 700

French Anarchists and the Aliens Act.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 701

Deportation Certificates.—Question, Mr. Fell; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 702

CASE OF ANNIE VISCHNER.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 702

ALIENS AND THE UNEMPLOYED PROBLEM.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 702

CLASSIFICATION OF ALIEN IMMIGRANTS.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 703

LOANS TO ALIEN IMMIGRANTS.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 703

PAUPERISM IN WEST HAM.—Questions, Mr. Thorne (West Ham, E.); Answers, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 703

AMERICAN CANNED MEAT.—Questions, Sir Gilbert Parker, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) and Sir Howard Vincent; Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Burghs) 704

MORLEY COMMISSION.—Questions, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, W.) and Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answers, Sir Edward Strachey (Somerset, S.) .. 705

COUNTY CORK—EVICTED TENANTS.—Questions, Mr. William Abraham (Cork, County, N.E.); Answers, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool Exchange, for Mr. Bryce) 706

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.); Answer, Mr. Asquith 707

NEW WRIT.—New Writ for the City of London, in the room of Sir Edward Clarke, knight, K.C. (Manor of Northstead).—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood*) 707

Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (Registration of Patent Agents) Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, and to be printed. [Bill 248.] 707

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 2.

Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 707

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 2 be postponed."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. 713
Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool) 714
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 715

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 97 ; Noes, 238. (Division List No. 109.)

Sir William Anson (*Oxford University*) 721

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out the words 'for the purpose of continuing,' and insert the words 'shall continue.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Birrell 723
Sir Philip Magnus (*London University*) 724
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) 727
Mr. Cave (*Surrey, Kingston*) 729
Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) 731
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 732
Mr. Birrell 736
Mr. A. J. Balfour 737
Mr. Bridgeman (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) 741
Colonel Williams (*Dorsetshire, W.*) 742
Major Seely (*Liverpool, Abercromby*) 743
Mr. Walter Long 743
Mr. Wallace (*Perth*) 745
Mr. Guest (*Cardiff District*) 747
Sir William Anson 748
Mr. Blake (*Longford, S.*) 749
Mr. Wyndham (*Dover*) 751
Mr. Masterman (*West Ham, N.*) 752
Mr. Birrell 754
Mr. A. J. Balfour 755
Mr. Samuel Evans (*Glamorganshire, Mid.*) 757
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 758
Mr. Belloc (*Salford, S.*) 759
Mr. Perks (*Lincolnshire, Louth*) 759
Mr. Harwood (*Bolton*) 760
Mr. Stuart (*Sunderland*) 761
Mr. Adkins (*Lancashire, Middleton*) 761
Sir E. Carson (*Dublin University*) 762

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 313 ; Noes, 133. (Division List No. 110.)

Sir George Kekewich (*Exeter*) 767

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, after the first word 'school,' to insert the words 'the premises of which are certified by the Board of Education to be efficient.'"—(*Sir George Kekewich.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (*Mr. Lough, Islington, W.*) 768
Lord Balcarres 769
Sir William Anson 769

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir William Anson 770

Amendment proposed—

"Clause 2, in page 1, lines 13 and 14, leave out 'with the consent of the Board of Education.'"—(*Sir W. Anson*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Lough 770

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Ashley (*Lancashire, Blackpool*) 771

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, Clause 2, line 15, after 'agreement,' insert 'under seal.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. Bridgeman 771

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, Clause 2, line 15, leave out the words 'school house of the.'"—(*Mr. Remnant.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Lord Balcarres 772
Mr. Bridgeman 773
Sir Francis Powell (*Wigan*) 774
Sir W. Robson 774
Mr. Remnant (*Finsbury, Holborn*) 775

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Bridgeman 775

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, after the word 'school,' to insert the words 'and on three days a week free of charge for any other educational purpose.'"—(*Mr. Bridgeman.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Hart-Davies (Hackney, N.) .. 776
Mr. Lough .. 776
Sir Francis Powell .. 777
Mr. Rawlinson .. 777

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'free of charge.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'free of charge' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester) .. 778
Mr. Verney (Buckinghamshire, N.) .. 778
Lord Balcarres .. 778

Question put, and agreed to.

Question, as amended, proposed.

Lord Balcarres .. 779
Mr. Rogers (Wiltshire, Devizes) .. 779
Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald .. 779
Colonel Williams .. 780
Mr. Lough .. 780
Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) .. 780
Lord Balcarres .. 781
Mr. Alfred Hutton (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) .. 782
Mr. Adkins .. 782

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 97; Noes, 335. (Division List No. 111.)

Mr. Remnant .. 787

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, after the word 'school,' to insert the words 'for a period of not less than three or more than seven years.'"—(*Mr. Remnant.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Birrell .. 788

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 84; Noes, 377. (Division List No. 112.)

Mr. Cave .. 793

Amendment proposed—

"Page 1, line 17, after the word 'requires,' to insert the words 'renew any such arrangements or.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Birrell 793
Lord Balcarres 793
Mr. A. J. Balfour 794

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Thornton (Clapham) 794

Amendment proposed—

" In page 1, line 18, after the word ' manner,' to insert the words ' such arrangements, including agreement to pay annual and substantial rent to the owner or owners of the schoolhouse.' "—(*Mr. Thornton.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

Sir W. Robson 796
Mr. Rawlinson 796
Mr. A. J. Balfour 796
Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing) 797

Mr. BIRRELL rose in his place, and claimed to move, " That the Question be now put."

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 333 ; Noes, 122. (Division List No. 113.)

Question put accordingly, " That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 87 ; Noes, 370. (Division List No. 114.)

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

Solicitors Bill [LORDS].—Read a second time, and committed for Monday next 808

And, it being half-past Eleven of the Clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at half after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS : TUESDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Read a second time, and committed 809

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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [By Order] 809

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill [By Order].—Read a second time, and committed 809

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 809

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).—Mr. MOONEY reported from the Committee on Group H of Private Bills; That Sir Daniel Dixon, one of the members of the said Committee, was not present during the sitting of the Committee this day.

Report to lie upon the Table 809

PETITIONS.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT (1896) AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Whitland, against; to lie upon the Table 809

EAST INDIA AND CHINA (OPIUM TRAFFIC).—Petition from Cardiff, for suppression; to lie upon the Table 809

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against; from Anstey; Ashley; Bredhurst; Cheshunt; Chichester; Duffield; Frenchay; Hull; Kippax; Langton; Shipton Thorpe; Stoke Newington; Swale Cliff; and Whitby; to lie upon the Table 809

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of law; from Alvanley (two); Aston Subedge (two); Ashurst; Blackford Wedmore; Blackwell; Cilgerran (two); Cockshutt; Colne; Durham (two); East Bergholt; Highcliffe (two); Llanpumpsaint; Oxton; South Kennington; Stoke Bruerne; Turvey; Whitley Lower (two); Wolverhampton; and Worlingworth cum Southolt; to lie upon the Table 810

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions for alteration; from Salisbury and other places; and Wiltshire; to lie upon the Table .. 810

HOUSE-LETTING (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Paisley, in favour; to lie upon the Table 810

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.—Petitions for alteration of Law: from Blandford; Brecknock; Hunslet; Scarborough; Strood; Wem; and Wheatenhurst; to lie upon the Table 810

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration: from Andover (two); Bethnal Green (two); Bexhill; Blackpool (two); Bo'ness; Braintree; Breconshire; Chatham; Clackmannan and Kinross; Cockermouth; Diss; Dundee; Falkirk Burghs (two); Gateshead-on-Tyne; Gillingham; Heckmondwike; Hitchin; Inverness Burghs; Isle of Thanet; King's Lynn; Kinross; Leeds (Central); Linlithgowshire; Maldon; Margate; Mid. Derbyshire; Northampton; North Dorset (two); North - West

Durham; Ramsgate; Reading (two); Rye; St. Augustine's; Sandwich; Sheffield (Central); Spen Valley; Stamford (two); Stanley; Tunbridge Wells (two); and Workington; to lie upon the Table 810

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions against; from Chorley and Rye; to lie upon the Table 810

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.—Petition from Hunslet, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 810

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3629 to 3632 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 811

FOREIGN TRADE (COMPARATIVE GROWTH).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 15th May; *Sir Howard Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 192] 811

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Arundel Port, Copy of Annual Report and General Account of the Commissioners of Arundel Port for period from March 25th, 1905, to March 25th, 1906 [by Act] .. 811

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. McKenna 811

VACANCIES FOR SUPERINTENDENTS AT THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Straus (Tower Hamlets, Mile End); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 811

WAR OFFICE AND AMERICAN TINNED MEAT.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Haldane 812

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

H.M.S. "MONTAGU."—Question, Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham) Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 812

NAVAL SHIPBUILDING PROGRAMME.—Questions, Mr. Arthur Lee; Answers, Mr. Edmund Robertson 812

ARMY PROMOTION.—Question, Mr. Lehmann (Leicestershire, Market Harborough); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddingtonshire) 813

RAILWAY EXTENSION IN NORTHERN NIGERIA.—Question, Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 814

NEW HEBRIDES MIXED COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 814

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INDIAN FACTORIES—HOURS OF LABOUR.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 814

IMPORTS OF SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS INTO THE SOUDAN.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Nottinghamshire, E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 815

SOUDAN GOVERNMENT AND THE BRUSSELS ACT OF 1890.—Question, Dr. Rutherford (Middlesex, Brentford); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 816

CHINESE CUSTOMS AGREEMENT.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 816

CHINESE Labour Cartoons.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 817

THE CONGO.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 817

THE ALIENS ACT—POLITICAL REFUGEES.—Question, Sir W. Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 818

IMMIGRANTS' MEANS.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 818

FACTORY ACT PROSECUTIONS.—Question, Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham Barnard Castle); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 818

FACTORY ACT—UNVISITED FACTORIES.—Question, Mr. Arthur Henderson; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 819

FACTORY DEPARTMENT—COST OF STATISTICAL BRANCH.—Question, Mr. Arthur Henderson; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 819

FACTORY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.—Questions, Mr. Arthur Henderson; Answers, Mr. Gladstone 819

WRECK OF THE "STAR OF HOPE."—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 820

THE COMPANIES ACTS INQUIRY.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 820

POST OFFICE MAIL VAN WORK.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 821

POSTAL OFFICIALS' PENSIONS.—Questions, Mr. Morrell (Oxfordshire, Henley); Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 821

IRISH LOAN FUND BOARD.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) 821

IRISH SCHOOL TEACHERS.—Questions, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway), Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 824

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor), Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman) Stirling Burghs 825

NEW WRIT.—New Writ for the Borough of St. George, Hanover Square, in the room of Colonel the hon. Heneage Legge (Chiltern Hundreds).—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.*) 827

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE, &c.—Ordered, that leave be given to the Standing Committee on Trade, &c., to sit during the Sitting of the House, To-morrow, for the consideration of the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill.—(*Mr. Kearley.*) 828

NEW MEMBER SWORN.—Ellis William Davies, esquire, for the County of Carnarvon (South or Eifion Division) 828

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill:—Mr. Shackleton; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. William Tyson Wilson.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following Fifteen Members in respect of the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill:—Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. Bryce, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Gordon, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, Mr. Glendinning, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Thomas Smyth, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. Nannetti, Mr. Clancy, Mr. Harrington, and Mr. Roche.

Reports to lie upon the Table 828

Political Pensions Bill.—"To repeal The Political Offices Pension Act, 1869," presented by Sir Howard Vincent; supported by Sir Frederick Carne Rasch; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 249.] .. 828

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 2:—

Major Seely (*Liverpool, Abercromby*) 828

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'manner,' to insert the words 'where any existing voluntary school is not taken over by the local education authority, owing to the authority having made no proposal or

come to no arrangement under this section, the owners or trustees of such school may appeal to the Board of Education, and the Board shall then hold a local inquiry, and if, in the opinion of the Board, the local education authority has without good and sufficient reason failed to make any proposal or arrangement for carrying on such school as a provided school, the Board may require the local education authority to take over such school on such terms as the Board may determine."—(*Major Seely.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) .. 830
Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) .. 835
Sir W. Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) .. 837
The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. 838
Mr. J. Chamberlain (Birmingham, W.) .. 841
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) .. 845
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) .. 849
Mr. *Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid.)* .. 852
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) .. 854
Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) .. 855
Mr. F. E. Smith (Liverpool, Walton) .. 857
Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) .. 858

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 104; Noes, 330. (Division List No. 115.)

Dr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University) .. 861

Amendment proposed—

" In page 1, line 18, after the word ' manner ' to insert the words, 'Provided that the local education authority shall not refuse to enter into any agreement because the owners make it a condition that facilities for giving religious instruction of some special character shall be afforded in accordance with the provisions of this Act."—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Mr. Lough, Cambridge University) .. 865
Sir E. Carson (Dublin University) .. 866
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor) .. 868
Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam) .. 870
Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry) .. 871
Mr. Herbert (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe) .. 871
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 873
Mr. Birrell .. 874
Mr. Rawlinson .. 875
Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) .. 877

Mr. BIRRELL rose in his place, and claimed to move, " That the Question be now put."

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 333 ; Noes, 142. (Division List, No. 116.)

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 104 ; Noes, 326. (Division List, No. 117.)

Mr. Cave 887

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 18 and 19, to leave out the words 'but it shall,' and insert the words 'and it may.'"

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Birrell 889
Mr. Blake (*Longford, S.*) 889
Lord R. Cecil 889
Mr. Carlile (*Herts, St. Albans*) 890

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Alfred Hutton (*Yorks, W.R., Morley*) 892

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, to leave out from the word 'repair' to end of sub-section."—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Birrell 892
Sir Francis Powell (*Wigan*) 893
Lord Balcarres 893

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Cave 893

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the Clock, and there being private business set down, by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding stood postponed without Question put.

North East London Railway Bill (BY ORDER).—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JAMES CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid.) in the Chair.]

Mr. Cave 894

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, after the word 'that' to insert the words 'the owners of the schoolhouse shall at the cost of.'"

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Lough 894
Mr. Lane Fox (Yorks., W.R., Barkston Ash) 895
Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) 896
Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby) 896
Colonel Kenyon Slaney (Shropshire, Newport) 897

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir William Anson 898

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'enabled' to insert the words 'with the consent of the owners of the schoolhouse.'"—(*Sir W. Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Lough 898
Sir William Anson 899
Mr. Birrell 899

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord Balcarres 900

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, to leave out from the word 'alterations' to end of sub-section and insert the words 'which Government inspectors may hold to be necessary.'"—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Birrell 901
Mr. Burdett Coutts (Westminster) 901
Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.) 902
Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) 903
Mr. Bridgeman 904
Lord Balcarres 905

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) 905

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, after the word 'improvements,' to insert the words 'not prejudicial to the use of it by the owners for any purpose consistent with the trust.'"—(*Sir Francis Powell.*)

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Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Dillon 906
Mr. A. J. Balfour 907
Mr. Birrell 908
Mr. Wyndham (Dover) 908
Mr. Samuel Evans 908

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 70 ; Noes, 349. (Division List, No. 118.)

Mr. Bridgeman 913

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, after the word 'improvements,' to insert the words 'or to make any arrangements with the owners of the school house as to alterations and improvements.'"—(*Mr. Bridgeman.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Lane Fox 914
Mr. Birrell 914

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 87 ; Noes, 321. (Division List No. 119.

Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough) 919

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 26, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words, 'but a separate account shall be kept of all moneys expended by the local education authority on repairs, alterations, and improvements of the structure, and the amounts so expended shall be taken into consideration in fixing, at any future time, the amount to be paid by the local education authority in respect of the hire or purchase of the building; and in the event of the non-renewal of the agreement by reason of the action or demands of the owners, the local education authority shall be empowered to recover from the owners the unexhausted value of such structural improvements, alterations, and repairs.'"

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Lough 920

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Colonel Kenyon Slaney 921

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 26, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words, 'but the owners shall have the option of carrying out such

alterations or improvements at their own expense, and to charge, in addition to any arrangements already made, such a sum as may represent a fair percentage of such expenditure.' "

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Birrell 922

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord Balcarres 922

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out paragraph (b), of Sub-section (1).—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question put, "That paragraph (b), of Sub-section (1), to the word 'any,' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Birrell 923
Sir William Anson 923
Mr. Austin Taylor (*Liverpool, East Toxteth*) 923
Mr. Wyndham 924
Mr. Birrell 924
Mr. Evelyn Cecil 924
Mr. Austin Taylor 925

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 382 ; Noes, 97. (Division List No. 120.)

And, it being after Eleven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.
Adjourned at twelve minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13TH, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

North East Lincolnshire Water Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered and agreed to ; Bristol Corporation Bill.—Read the third time, and passed. [New Title] 933

Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (Purchase) Bill [LORDS] , Crellin's Patents Bill [Lords] ; Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords] ; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill [Lords] ; Manchester Churches Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 933

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Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Southport and Lytham Tramroad (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]; Trent Navigation Company Bill [Lords]; Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [Lords]—Read a second time and committed 933

Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 933

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read a third time to-morrow 933

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to the Metropolitan Borough of Saint Pancras," presented by Mr. Runciman; supported by Mr. John Burns 933

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill. Ordered, That, in the case of the Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill, Standing Order 193a be suspended and the Bill be read the first time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 250.] 933

Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords].—Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be be printed 933

PETITIONS.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against; from Clapham (Yorks.); Danby and Castleton; Edmonson; Fylingdales; Glaisdale; Goathland; Grosmont; Hawsker; Hinderwell and Staithes; Langton-on Swale; Montford; Sleights; Sneaton; Stirchley; Tilehurst; and Ugthorpe; to lie upon the Table 934

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petition from Basildon, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 934

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Bardsey; Bardsey cum Rigton; Chapelthorpe; Crondall; Darton; Deal (two); Holmfirth; Langton on Swale; Lindley; Mirfield (three); Monk Hopton; Newborough; Randwick (two); Saddington (two); Sandal; Thornhill (two); Thornhill Lees (two); Upper Hopton; Wakefield (four); West Haddon; Wetherby; and Woolley; to lie upon the Table 934

Education (Provision of Meals) Bill.—Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table 934

House-Letting (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Greenock, in favour; to lie upon the Table 934

Infant Life Protection.—Petitions for alteration of Law; from Battle; Elham; Hardingstone; and Hastings; to lie upon the Table .. . 934

Land Values Taxation, etc. (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table 934

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill (Lords).—Petitions for alteration; from Aberdeen (North); Arbroath; Banff (two); Bath (two); Brighouse; Clapham (two); Dover; Elland; Harwich (two); Houghton le Spring; Islington (East) (two); Leamington and Warwick; Leeds (two); Leeds (North); Ludlow; Newbury; North Worcestershire; Nuneaton (two); St. Rollox, Glasgow; Shrewsbury (two); Stranraer (two); West Malling; Whitehaven; and Worcester; to lie upon the Table 934

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Labourers' Cottages (Ireland).—Return [presented June 7th] to be printed. [No. 193.] 935

Labourers' Cottages (Ireland).—Return [presented June 7th] to be printed. [No. 194.] 935

Shop Hours Act, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the City and County of Bristol and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the Horfield Ward of the City and County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 935

Papers Laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.

1. Inquiry into Charities (County of Wilts). Further Return relative thereto [ordered August 9th, 1901 ; Mr. Griffith-Boscawen]; to be printed. [No. 195.]

2. Inquiry into Charities (County of Berks). Further Return relative thereto [ordered March 28th, 1905 ; Mr. Griffith-Boscawen]; to be printed. [No. 196.] 935

Crown Lands (Recovery of Crown Rents).—Committee to consider of authorising the limitation of time for proceedings for the recovery by the Crown of quit and other Rents in Ireland in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to amend the Crown Lands Acts, 1829 to 1894 ((King's Recommendation signified), To-morrow.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*) 935

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Purchase of Mr. Stoney's Estate, County Mayo.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 935

Candidates for Naval Cadetships.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 937

Irish Land Purchase Interest—Case of Michael Lucey.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 937

Revaluation of City of Dublin.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 938

Evicted Tenants on the Knight of Glein Estate.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 938

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REINSTATEMENT OF MICHAEL DALTON OF PALLAS.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 939

EVICTION OF MRS. BAKER OF BALLIGRANE.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 939

REINSTATEMENT OF THOMAS M'HUGH OF ROCKFIELD, RATHKEALE.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 939

EVICTION AT BALLINAGOULD CROAGH, COUNTY LIMERICK.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 940

RAILWAY AND CANAL RATES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Bryce 940

COST OF UP-KEEP OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.—Question, Mr. Laidlaw (Renfrewshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 940

GRANT TO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF WALES AT ABERYSTWYTH.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Asquith 941

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. Spicer (Hackney, Central); Answer, Mr. Birrell 942

MOVING OF MALE AND FEMALE PRISONERS.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 945

DOCKING COUNCIL ALLOTMENTS.—Question, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Mr. John Burns 945

BOARDED-OUT POOR LAW CHILDREN.—Question, Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby); Answer, Mr. John Burns 946

RAILWAY BRAKE VANS OF GOODS TRAINS.—Question, Mr. Bell (Derby); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 946

PENSIONS OF DAUGHTERS OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Hart-Davies (Hackney, N.); Answer, Mr. Morley .. 947

ARMY MEAT CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 947

FREE PARDON FOR PATRICK RYAN AND HENRY GEORGE BAXTER.—Question, Mr. Mooney (Newry); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 948

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

OBSOLETE WAR VESSELS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) .. 949

GREENWICH OBSERVATORY.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 949

CHICAGO CANNED GOODS.—Questions, Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.) and Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 949

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ARMY PENSIONS.—Question, Captain Faber (Hampshire, Andover); Answer, Mr. Haldane 950

SEA PASSAGES FOR OFFICERS' WIVES.—Question, Captain Faber; Answer, Mr. Haldane 951

SOUTH AFRICA—COURT MARTIAL ON NATIVES.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 951

DINUZULU.—Questions, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent); Answers, Mr. Churchill 951

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY SCHEME.—Question, Mr. Lea; Answer, Mr. Churchill 955

CHINESE COOLIES IN SOUTH AFRICA—REPATRIATION NOTICE.—Questions, Mr. Scott (Ashton-under-Lyne) and Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answers, Mr. Churchill 953

PROHIBITION OF THE IMPORTATION OF COOLIES.—Question, Mr. Scott; Answer, Mr. Churchill 954

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Churchill 954

CHINDE RIVER BANK.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Churchill 955

PROTESTANT MISSION IN MALTA.—Questions, Mr. Essex (Gloucestershire, Cirencester), Mr. Silcock (Somersetshire, Wells), and Mr. Sloan; Answers, Mr. Churchill 955

NATIVE DEFEAT IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 956

THE INDIA BUDGET.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 957

THE CLIVE FUND.—Question, Mr. Seddon (Lancashire, Newton); Answer, Mr. Morley 957

MACEDONIAN FINANCE.—Question, Mr. Lynch (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon); Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury, for Sir Edward Grey) 958

GERMANY AND THE PERSIAN GULF.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Runciman 959

CONGO FREE STATE.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Mr. Runciman 959

GOLD RESERVE.—Question, Captain Faber; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 959

TRAM TICKET LOTTERIES.—Question, Mr. Scott; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 960

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POSTAL GUIDES.—Question, Sir G. Kekewich (Exeter); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 960

LABOURERS' DWELLINGS IN ST. PANCRAS.—Question, Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 961

NATIONAL MEAT SUPPLIES.—Questions, Mr. Baker (Finsbury, E.) and Capt. Craig (Down, E.); Answers, Mr. John Burns 961

ALIEN PILOTS.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, The Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) 962

FIRE INSURANCE.—Question, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.); Answer, Mr. Kearley 962

NEW ST. HELEN'S TRAMS.—Question, Mr. Seddon (Lancashire, Newton); Answer, Mr. Kearley 962

SCOTTISH OFFICIAL SALARIES.—Question., Mr. Watt (Glasgow College); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 963

MAJOR FERGUSON.—Questions, Mr. Ainsworth (Argyllshire); Answers, Mr. Sinclair 963

SCOTTISH CHURCHES DISPUTES.—Question, Mr. Annan Bryce (Inverness Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 964

SALES OF WESTMEATH ESTATES.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) .. 964

LAND ACT ADMINISTRATION—TENANTS' INTERESTS.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 965

MURPHY ESTATE, KNOCKNAGREE, COUNTY CORK.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 966

ST. JOHNSTON (EAST DONEGAL) EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. McVeigh (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 967

LABOURERS' COTTAGES.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 967

MR. JEREMIAH HURLEY, J.P.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 968

COALISLAND DISTURBANCE.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale; Answers, Mr. Bryce .. 968

THE IRISH LANGUAGE.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce 969

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Bryce 969

DUBLIN POLICE SUPERINTENDENTS.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Bryce 969

TRINITY COLLEGE COMMISSION.—Questions, Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University), and Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, Mr. Bryce .. 970

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EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.—Question, Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling, Burghs) 971

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 972

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 251] 972

NEW BILL.

Teachers of Music (Registration) Bill.—"To provide for the Registration of Teachers of Music," presented by Mr. George White; supported by Mr. Wyndham, Sir John Brunner, Sir Henry Craik, and Mr. Nield; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, June 27th, and to be printed. [Bill 252] 972

Labourers (Ireland) Bill:—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 972
Colonel Saunderson (*Armagh, N.*) 981
Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 983
Mr. Hayden (*Roscommon, S.*) 986
Mr. Charles Craig (*Antrim, S.*) 989
Mr. O'Shaughnessy (*Limerick, W.*) 993
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 994
Mr. Barrie (*Londonderry, N.*) 998
Mr. Walter Long (*Dublin County, S.*) 1002
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.*) 1003
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 1012
Mr. Tomkinson (*Cheshire, Crewe*) 1014
Mr. Patrick White (*Meath, N.*) 1015
Captain Craig (*Down, E.*) 1016
The Attorney-General for Ireland (*Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, Exchange*) .. 1019
Mr. Swift M'Neill (*Donegal, S.*) 1020
Mr. T. L. Corbett (*Down, N.*) 1020

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Finance Bill

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. Channing (*Northamptonshire, E.*) 1022
Mr. Smeaton (*Stirlingshire*) 1024
Mr. William Rutherford (*Liverpool, West Derby*) 1026
Mr. Fell (*Great Yarmouth*) 1029
Mr. Summerbell (*Sunderland*) 1032
Captain Craig (*Down, E.*) 1032
Mr. Carlile (*Herts, St. Albans*) 1035

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'it is undesirable to proceed further with a measure imposing heavy burdens on His Majesty's subjects resident in the United Kingdom until steps have been taken to secure from foreign nations a substantial contribution to our revenue by the taxation of imported foreign manufactured articles which can be equally well supplied by home and Colonial industry'—(*Captain Craig*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.*) 1038
Mr. Nield (*Middlesex, Ealing*) 1038
Lord Castlereagh (*Maidstone*) 1040
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 1041
Mr. Pike Pease (*Darlington*) 1044
Mr. Barrie (*Londonderry, N.*) 1045
Mr. Shackleton (*Lancs., Clitheroe*) 1046
Mr. Courthope (*Sussex, Rye*) 1047

Question put—

The House divided :—Ayes, 257 ; Noes, 3. (Division List No. 121.)

Original Question again proposed.

Sir William Bull (*Hammersmith*) 1055
Mr. Asquith 1055
Mr. Meysey-Thompson (*Staffordshire, Handsworth*) 1056
Mr. David MacIver (*Liverpool, Kirkdale*) 1057

Question put and agreed to. Bill read the third time, and passed.

Musical Copyright Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1.

And, it being after Eleven of the Clock, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again to morrow 1060

Rights of Way Bill.—Read a second time, and committed for to-morrow .. 1060

Adjourned at twenty-seven minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 14TH JUNE, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill.—Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table 1061

Bacup Corporation Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 8th and 29th of May last discharged, and Bill committed 1061

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed 1061

Ascot District Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1061

Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed 1061

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1061

Dover Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1061

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Lancashire Electric Power Bill; Metropolitan Water Board Bill; St. Pancras Electricity Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill. Brought from the Commons, read 1ª, and referred to the Examiners 1061

Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill; Metropolitan District Railway Bill; Kettering Water Bill; Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill; North West London Railway Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill; Bristol Corporation Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª, and referred to the Examiners .. 1061

Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Bill [H.L.]; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to 1062

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [H.L.]; South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [H.L.]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 1062

Mersey Railway Bill [H.L.]; North Sussex Gas and Water Bill [H.L.]; Preston Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 1062

New Mills Urban District Council Bill; North East Lincolnshire Water Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to .. 1062

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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]. Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1062

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.].—Committed to a Committee of the whole House on Tuesday next 1062

Tramway Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1062

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next 1062

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—Committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow 1062

Ritz Hotel Bill [H.L.].—Committed.. 1062

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 1063

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Amendment reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow 1063

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow 1063

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. (No. 119); Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. (No. 120); Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill. (No. 121); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. (No. 122)—Brought from the Commons, read 1ª, to be printed; and referred to the Examiners 1063

Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill.—Brought from the Commons, Read 1ª; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2ª (The Lord Hamilton of Dalzell), and reported from the Committee. (No. 123) .. 1063

Great North of Scotland Railway Order Confirmation Bill.

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 3ª.—(*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell.*)

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

Lord Monkswell 1063

Amendment moved—

"In the Schedule, in Clause 3, page 3, line 30, to leave out from the beginning of the clause to the word 'provided' on line 4, page 4, and to insert the words 'the company may provide own work and use to or from any railway station depot or hotel owned, leased, or worked by the company road vehicles to be drawn or moved by animal, electrical, or other mechanical power and may therein convey passengers, passengers' luggage, luggage, parcels, and merchandise, who or which have been or are to be conveyed over some part of the railways owned, worked, or used by the company, and may make and recover such charges as they think fit in respect of such conveyance and may enter into contracts or agreements with any company or person for the supply or working of any such vehicles."—(*Lord Monkswell.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1066
The Marquess of Huntley 1068
Lord Leith of Fyvie 1069
Lord Hamilton of Dalzell 1069
The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Onslow*) 1070
Lord Monkswell 1071

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Kinnaird 1071

Amendment moved—

"In the Schedule, to leave out Clause 3."—(*Lord Kinnaird.*)

Lord Hamilton of Dalzell 1072

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass."—(*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell.*)

On question, Motion agreed to.

Bill passed.

PETITIONS.

Education.—Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools: Of parents and guardians of children attending schools at Thornham; Elton; Tarleton (two); Hulton; Chequerbent. Of teachers in schools at Tarleton; Thornham; Hulton.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1073

Transvaal and Orange River Colony (New Constitution).—Petition in favour of equality of franchise under a new constitution for coloured peoples in South Africa, of president and members of the Coloured People's Vigilance Committee; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. 1073

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the following Papers, having been commanded to be presented to this House by His Majesty, had been so presented on the following dates by delivery to the Clerk of the Parliaments, pursuant to Standing Order No. CXI., viz.:—

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TRADE REPORTS.—I. ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3605. Argentine Republic (Rosario).
No. 3606. Italy (Finances of Italy).
No. 3607. Spain (Cadiz). (May 30.)
No. 3608. Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul).
No. 3609. Turkey (Basra).
No. 3610. Russia (Rostor-on-Don).
No. 3611. France (Pondicherry).
No. 3612. Spain (Galicia, the Asturias, and Leon).
No. 3613. China (Canton)
No. 3614. France (Corsica).
No. 3615. Costa Rica.
No. 3616. France (Bordeaux).
No. 3617. Greece (Thessaly).
No. 3618. Roumania
No. 3619. China (Nanking).
No. 3620. Guatemala (Quezaltenango). (June 6.)
No. 3621. Greece (Piraeus and District).
No. 3622. United States (Chicago).
No. 3623. Western Pacific (Samoa).
No. 3624. Denmark. (June 8.)
No. 3625. France (Silk Industry of Lyons and St. Etienne and Trade of Grenoble).
No. 3626. France (Cochin China).
No. 3627. Germany (Hamburg). (June 11.)
No. 3628. China (Shanghai). (June 12.)
No. 3629. France (Dunkirk).
No. 3630. Bulgaria.
No. 3631. Spain (Barcelona).
No. 3632. China (Teng Hueh). (June 13.)

II. MISCELLANEOUS.—No. 652. Germany (Agriculture in the Rhenish Province). (May 30.)

CONSULAR REPORTS.—Index to the Reports of His Majesty's Diplomatic and consular Representatives abroad on trade and subjects of general interest (with Appendix) 1905. (May 30.)

ARMY (VOLUNTEER CORPS).—Annual return of the volunteer corps of Great Britain for the year 1905. (May 30.)

POST OFFICE.—Agreements between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Offices of:

I. Peru for the exchange of money orders, dated October 22nd, 1904, and December 25th, 1904.

II. The Dutch East Indies, dated March 30th, 1905, and June 3rd, 1905. (May 31.)

TREATY SERIES, No. 7 (1906).—Treaty between the United Kingdom and Nicaragua for the mutual extradition of fugitive criminals; signed at Managua, April 19th, 1905. (Ratification exchanged in London, February 13th, 1906). (May 31.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

I. (Regulations as to Special Grants). Regulations providing for special grants in aid of certain local education authorities in England and Wales. (May 31.)

II. (Pupil Teacher Regulations).—Regulations for the instruction and training of pupil teachers (in force from August 1st, 1906). (June 9.)

III. (Memorandum Register of Teachers).—Memorandum on the registration of teachers and the abolition of the register. (June 9.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL.—Letters Patent issued under the Great Seal appointing Thomas Milvain, Esquire, K.C., to be Judge Advocate-General. (June 1.)

POOR LAW (SCOTLAND).—Reports to the Local Government Board for Scotland on the burden of the existing rates and the general financial position of the outer Hebrides. (June 7.)

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.—Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery, 1905–1906. (June 8.)

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Regulations for the preliminary education, training, and certification of teachers for various grades of schools. (June 8.)

ROYAL PATRIOTIC FUND CORPORATION.—Second Report of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation for the year 1905. (June 12.)

Colonies (Annual).—No. 483. Ashanti (Report for 1905). (June 13.)

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1073

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland appointing the places at which examinations for 1906 shall be held 1076

PHARMACY (IRELAND) ACTS, 1875 TO 1890.—Two Orders in Council, dated 19th June, 1906, approving of amended regulations made by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland 1076

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

The annual report on the state of the finances of the University of St. Andrews, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Act, for the year 1904–1905.

Annual statistical report by the University court of the University of St. Andrews to the Secretary for Scotland under the provisions of Section 30 of the Act, for the year 1904–1905.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1076

MEDWAY CONSERVANCY.—Statement of receipt and expenditure of the conservators of the River Medway, for the year ended 25th March, 1906 1076

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PORT OF ARUNDEL.—Account and report for 1905-1906.

Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1076

EDUCATION (RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN COUNCIL SCHOOLS).—Return (in part) respecting: Laid before the House (pursuant to order of the 4th of May last), and to be printed. (No. 115) 1076

AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS IN BRITISH COLONIES (MR. RIDER HAGGARD'S REPORT.)—Report; minutes of evidence, with appendices, analysis, and index 1076

SOUTH-EASTERN AND CHATHAM RAILWAY.—Report to the Board of Trade by Major John Wallace Pringle, R.E., of the inquiry into the circumstances attending the fall of the roof of Charing Cross Station, which occurred on the 5th December, 1905. 1076

TRADE REPORTS.—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3633. Western Pacific (Friendly Islands).

No. 3634. Portugal (Quilimane),

No. 3635. Peru.

No. 3636. United States (Porto Rico).

No. 3637. Germany (Grand Duchy of Baden).

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1077

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Report by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons (1) that the provisions of the Buckhaven, Methill, and Innerleven Burgh Extension Order and of the North British Railway Order are of such a character that they ought to be dealt with by Private Bills and not by Provisional Orders; (2) that, save as aforesaid, the Provisional Orders be allowed to proceed, subject to such recommendations as may hereafter be made with respect to the several orders 1077

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.—Rules of the Supreme Court (May) 1906. The Middlesex County Council Act 1898, Rules 1077

SUPERANNUATION.—Treasury minute, dated 5th June, 1906, granting a retired allowance to David Henriques, engineer, 2nd class, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Post Office, under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act .. 1077

ARKLOW HARBOUR.—Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners, and statement of accounts for 1905 1077

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.—Account of receipts and payments under the Act during the year ended 31st March, 1906 1077

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Returns showing, up to 31st March, 1906—

I. The amount of Consolidated Stock; the application of the money raised by such stock; the sums carried to the Consolidated Loans Fund; the application of the Consolidated Loans Fund; an estimate of the expenditure of the council for all purposes, for the year ending 31st March, 1907.

II. All moneys raised by the Metropolitan Board of Works and the Council since the passing of the Act for the purposes mentioned in the Act; particulars in relation to every parish, district, union, or place in respect whereof a loan has been obtained from the Metropolitan Board of Works or the Council since the passing of the Act 1078

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Orders made by the following councils and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

City and county council of Bristol fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the Horfield Ward of the city and county; council of the county borough of Burnley fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the borough 1078

Finance Bill.—Brought from the Commons, and read 1^{a}; to be printed; and to be read 2^{a} to-morrow (The Lord Privy Seal [*M. Ripon*]). (No. 117) .. 1078

Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill.—Brought from the Commons, and read 1^{a}; to be printed; and to be read 2^{a} to-morrow (The Earl of Beauchamp). (No. 118) 1078

Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill [SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Earl Beauchamp 1078

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2a."—(*Earl of Beauchamp.*)

The Earl of Dartmouth or 1080
The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 1084
The Marquess of Lansdowne 1088
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 1093

On Question, Bill read 2^{a} accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Education of Defective Children (Scotland) Bill.—[SECOND READING.]—

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1095

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^{a}."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^{a}, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

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Criminal Appeal Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Motion for the House to resolve itself into Committee.

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Amendment moved—

> " To leave out Clause 1, and to insert as a new clause :—' 1.—(1) A person convicted on indictment may appeal within the time provided by this Act to the Court of Criminal Appeal against his conviction on any ground of appeal which involves a question of law alone ; and with the leave either of the court before whom he is convicted or of the Court of Criminal Appeal on any ground of appeal which involves a question of fact alone or of mixed law and fact. (2) A person convicted on indictment may also appeal within the time provided by this Act to the Court of Criminal Appeal against the judgment (other than judgment of death) passed on his conviction on the ground of illegality, or unless the judgment is one fixed by law of undue severity. (3) If on any such appeal the court are of opinion that the appeal ought to be allowed, the court shall : (*a*) If the appeal is an appeal against conviction,and the court are of opinion that the appeal ought to be allowed on the ground only that though there was evidence proper to be submitted to the jury, yet the verdict of the jury was against the weight of evidence, direct a new trial of the case ; and (*b*) In any other case, as the case requires, either quash the conviction and direct a judgment of acquittal to be entered, or quash the judgment passed at the trial, and pass such other judgment in substitution therefor as they think ought to have been passed. (4) If on any such appeal the court are of opinion that the appeal should be dismissed, the court shall dismiss the appeal accordingly.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 6 agreed to.

Clause 7 :—

The Lord Chancellor 1098

Amendment moved—

> " In page 5, lines 13 to 17, to leave out Sub-section (1)."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Bill recommitted to the Standing Committee and to be printed as amended. (No. 116.)

Reserve Forces Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) .. 1099

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 9, after the word 'any' to insert the words 'British Protectorate or in any.'"—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

Viscount Knutsford 1099

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Portsmouth 1099

Amendment moved—

"In lines 10 and 11, to leave out the words 'a self-governing colony,' and to insert the words 'in a colony possessing responsible government.'"—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In line 22, after the word 'Kingdom,' to insert the words 'or of British Protectorates.'"—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

Viscount Knutsford 1100

House resumed ; Bill to be again in Committee on Monday next.

Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order) : Bill reported without Amendment : Standing Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next 1101

Wireless Telegraphy Bill.—Amendment reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow 1101

House adjourned at a quarter before Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 14TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.—Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions a Certificate and Report relating to the Election for the City of Worcester.

Ordered, That the Copy of the Shorthand Writer's Notes of the Judgment of Mr. Justice Lawrance and Mr. Justice Walton on the Trial of the Election Petition for the City of Worcester, also the Minutes of Evidence taken at the Trial of the said Election Petition, be printed. [No. 198.]—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*) 1102

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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1106

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 1106

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 1106

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Title amended]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1106

Hackney Electricity Bill—Reported, with Amendments [Title amended]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1106

Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways (Abandonment) Bill; Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1106

Hull Joint Dock Bill [Lords]; Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [Lords]; Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1106

Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time 1106

Poole Corporation Water Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1106

Wallasey Tramways and Improvements Bill [Lords].—Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1107

Bury Corporation Bill [Lords].—Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1107

PETITIONS.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against: From Bermondsey; East Grinstead; Leigh; Llanberis; Oldham; Poulton; Rochester (three); St. Cuthbert; Shipton Moyne (two); Sleaford; Stow-on-the-Wold; and, Wandsworth Common; to lie upon the Table .. 1107

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EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law: From Blackburn; Kilburn (two); Leek; Martley; Nassington; North Peckham (two); Oldham; Paddington Green; Radwinter; Weston-super-Mare; Wilberforce; and Yarwell: to lie upon the Table 110

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.—Petitions for alteration of Law: From Faversham and Northwich; to lie upon the Table 1107

JURORS' EXPENSES BILL.—Petition from Carmarthenshire, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1107

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.—Two Petitions from North Paddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1107

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration: From Ashford; Clitheroe; Codnor; Colne; East Ham; Exeter (three); Ilkeston; Leeds (West); Paddington (North); Reigate (two); Romford; St. Pancras (East); Salisbury (two); Southport; and Tewkesbury (two); to lie upon the Table 1107

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions from Longtown, against; to lie upon the Table 1108

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PHARMACY (IRELAND) ACTS, 1875–1890.—Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated June 9th, 1906, approving of a Regulation made by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1108

PHARMACY (IRELAND) ACTS, 1875–1890.—Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated June 9th, 1906, approving of Amended Regulations made by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. 1108

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland appointing the places at which Examinations for 1906 shall be held [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1108

COLONIAL REPORTS ANNUAL.—Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 483 (Ashanti, Report for 1905) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 1108

AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS IN BRITISH COLONIES (DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE).—Copy presented, of Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to consider Mr. Rider Haggard's Report on Agricultural Settlements in British Colonies. Part I. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1108

AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS IN BRITISH COLONIES (DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.)—Copy presented, of Minutes of Evidence taken before the Departmental Committee appointed to consider Mr. Rider Haggard's Report on Agricultural Settlements in British Colonies, with Appendices, Analysis, and Index. Part II. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1108

SOUTH EASTERN AND CHATHAM RAILWAY.—Copy presented, of Report to the Board of Trade by Major John Wallace Pringle, R.E., of the Inquiry into the circumstances attending the fall of the roof of Charing Cross Station which occurred on December 5th, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1109

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TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3633 to 3637 (by Command); to lie upon the Table 1109

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered May 29th; Mr. Dickinson]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 197] 1109

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PEMBROKE DOCKYARD—REDUCTION OF STAFF.—Question, Mr. C. Philipps (Pembroke and Haverfordwest); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. 1109

NAVY ESTIMATES—ARMAMENTS VOTE.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1110

CONVICTION OF ALBERT BACH.—Question, Mr. Thomasson (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1110

BELFAST VALUATION RETURN.—Question, Mr. Mooney (Newry); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1111

ARMY MEAT CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Barrie (Londonderry); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1111

SIMILARITY BETWEEN BLANK AND BALL AMMUNITION.—Question, Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1112

REVALUATION OF THE CITY OF DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1112

DOCK WHARVES, ETC., RETURN.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1113

REHOUSING OF PERSONS FROM PROSPECT TERRACE AND DERRY STREET, ST. PANCRAS.—Question, Mr. C. W. Wilson (St. Pancras, S.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1114

PERSONS FOR LIGHTING AND VENTILATING STAFF OF HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—Question, Mr. Alden (Tottenham, Middlesex); Answer, Mr. Harcourt .. 1115

IMPORTS OF COLONIAL AND FOREIGN PLAIN SPIRITS FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.—Question, Mr. Clark (Camberwell, Peckham); Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 1115

INDIAN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION—LINE THROUGH CUTCH.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Morley 1116

JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS IN THE BARODA STATES.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, Mr. Morley 1116

GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE OF INDIAN GARRISON CHURCHES.—Question, Mr. Herbert (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe); Answer, Mr. Morley 1117

MURDER OF COOLIE SAHITA AT JULLUNDUR.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Morley 1118

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EVICTION OF WILLIAM RYAN AT BALLINAGUILE.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1118

EVICTING OF OWEN SHEEHY AT BALLINAGUILE.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1118

REINSTATEMENT OF JOHN SHEEHY, OF RAHEEN.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1119

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS' PENSION FUND.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1119

MILITARY BANDS FOR ENTERTAINMENT.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1119

PROPORTION OF ARTILLERY TO OTHER ARMS OF THE SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1120

LANCASHIRE MILITIA FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE.—Question, Mr. Arnold-Forster; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1120

WEEKLY PAYMENT OF ARMY PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. Morrell (Oxfordshire, Henley); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1121

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

H.M.S. "ASSISTANCE."—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary of the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 1121

NAVY PROVISION CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1121

NAVAL SHIPBUILDING.—Question, Mr. Cowan (Surrey, Guildford); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1122

STOBS CAMP.—Question, Sir J. Jardine (Roxburghshire); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 1122

VACCINATION OF GOVERNMENT WORKMEN.—Questions, Mr. Branch (Middlesex, Enfield); Mr. Lupton (Sleaford); Answers, Mr. Haldane 1123

MILITARY POLICE.—Questions, Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.), Mr. Morton (Sutherland); Answers, Mr. Haldane 1123

PRESERVED MEATS FOR THE ARMY.—Questions, Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey), Mr. Lea and Mr. William Redmond (Clare E.); Answers, Mr. Haldane 1124

2ND BATTALION WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT.—Questions, Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash); Answers, Mr. Haldane 1126

ABBOTSHAM RIFLE RANGE.—Questions, Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple); Answers, Mr. Haldane 1126

SALISBURY PLAIN BARRACKS.—Question, Mr. Lea; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 1127

LIGHTING OF BARRACKS.—Questions, Mr. Lea; Answers, Mr. Haldane 1128

EXECUTION OF A REPRIEVED PRISONER IN BENGAL.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 1128

PROSECUTIONS OF INDIAN SCHOOLBOYS.—Questions, Sir H. Cotton; Answers, Mr. Morley 1129

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS IN INDIA.—Questions, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answers, Mr. Morley 1130

OUTRAGES BY BRITISH SOLDIERS IN INDIA.—Questions, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Lea, Sir H. Cotton; Answers, Mr. Morley 1130

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES.—Questions, Sir J. Jardine, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire), Mr. Cowan; Answers, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 1132

NATIVE DISTURBANCES IN NATAL.—Question, Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1134

REPATRIATION OF CHINESE COOLIES.—Questions, Mr. Lehmann (Leicestershire, Market Harborough); and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Churchill 1135

CONGO FREE STATE.—Questions, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyne); Answers, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey) .. 1136

ANHUI MINING CONTRACT.—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1136

DETENTION OF THE STEAMSHIP "BRIARDALE" AT GENOA.—Questions, Mr. Cairns (Newcastle-on-Tyne); Answers, Sir Edward Grey 1137

ADMISSION OF ANARCHISTS.—Question, Sir W. Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney), Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.), Mr. Paul (Northampton); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 1138

ANARCHIST PROPAGANDA AND THE LONDON POLICE.—Question, Sir W. Evans-Gordon; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1139

EXPULSION OF ALIENS.—Question, Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1139

DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES.—Question, Mr. Fell; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 1139

VACCINATION EXEMPTION ORDERS.—Question, Mr. W. H. Davies (Bristol, S.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1140

POTTED FOODS—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.—Question, Dr. Cooper; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) .. 1140

VACCINATION.—Question, Mr. Lupton; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1140

RE-VACCINATION REGISTRATIONS.—Question, Mr. Lupton; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1141

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THE UNEMPLOYED BILL.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1142

LOCAL DISTRESS COMMITTEE'S REPORT.—Question, Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1142

UNIVERSAL PENNY POSTAGE.—Question, Mr. Morton, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1143

WEST-INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1144

SCHOOL TEACHERS AND CITIZEN TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. 1144

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1144

ELECTRIC TRAINS—METHODS OF WORKING.—Question, Mr. Hudson (Newcastle-on-Tyne; Answer, The Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley) .. 1145

SINGLE LINE TRAIN STAFFS.—Question, Mr. Hudson; Answer, Mr. Kearley .. 1145

INLAND REVENUE ASSESSORS.—Question, Mr. Lewis (Cheltenham); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire) .. 1146

INLAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT STAFF.—Question, Mr. Sears; Answer, Mr. McKenna 1147

CLERKS TO LOCAL COMMISSIONERS OF TAXES.—Question, Mr. Sears; Answer, Mr. McKenna 1147

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE—FEES ON APPOINTMENT.—Question, Mr. Cowan; Answer, The Attorney General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 1148

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR DIVISIONS.— Question, Mr. Remnant (Finsbury, Holborn), and Sir Robert Hobart (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, The Speaker 1149

NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.—Question, Mr. P. W. Wilson (St. Pancras, S.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 1149

ENCLOSURE OF COMMONS.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill; Answer, Mr. J. A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Walden) for Sir E. Strachey 1150

THE CAPTAIN SUTHERLAND BEQUEST.—Question, Mr. Morton; Answer, the Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 1150

SCOTTISH MAGISTRATES.—Question, Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1150

SCOTTISH PROCURATORS FISCAL.—Question, Mr. Morton; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs) 1151

DUNBLANE POLICE DISPUTE.—Questions, Mr. Wilkie (Dundee); Mr. Morton; Answers, Mr. Shaw 1152

Close Time for Hares—Waterford Resolution.—Question, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) 1152

Dublin Metropolitan Police Courts.—Questions, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1153

Richmond District Lunatic Asylum.—Question, Mr. Cogan (Wicklow, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1153

Irish Intermediate Education Rules.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1155

Captain Caldbeck's Queen's County Estate.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1155

Athlone Workmen's Dwelling Scheme.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1156

Barrow Strand Fenit.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1157

Belfast Constabulary Inquiry.—Questions, Mr. Sloan and Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1157

Kerry Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1158

Trinity College Commission.—Questions, Mr. Charles Craig, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1159

Belfast Valuation.—Question, Mr. Mooney (Newry); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1159

Danish Consulate Report.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1161

Irish Teachers' Pensions.—Question, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1161

Irish Lunacy Grant.—Question, Mr. Cogan; Answer, Mr. McKenna 1162

Bangor Post Office.—Question, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1163

NEW BILLS.

Nurses' Registration Bill.—"To regulate the qualifications of trained Nurses and to provide for their registration," presented by Mr. Munro Ferguson; supported by Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Rose, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. A. W. Black, Mr. Eve, Mr. Fell, Mr. Crooks, and Mr. McKillop; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 253.] .. 1165

Government of Scotland Bill.—"To amend the provision for the future government of Scotland," presented by Mr. Pirie; supported by Mr. Barnes, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Arthur Dewar, Mr. Gulland, Mr. Lamont, Mr. Murray Macdonald, Mr. Evans, Mr. Keir Hardie, Sir William Holland, Mr. William O'Brien, and Mr. Walker; to be read a second time upon Monday, July 9th, and to be printed. [Bill 254.] 1165

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Bond Investment Companies Bill.—" To provide for the better regulation of Bond Investment Companies," presented by Mr. Kearley ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 255.] 1165

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Ordered, That Mr. Blake be discharged from the Committee.

Ordered, That Mr. Hazelton be added to the Committee —(*Mr. Whiteley.*) .. 1165

SUPPLY [12TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum not exceeding £1,122,128 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland, including a Grant in Aid."

The Secretary for Scotland (*Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire*) — 1166
Sir Henry Craik (*Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities*) 1179
Mr. Smeaton (*Stirlingshire*) 1185

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum, not exceeding £1,122,028, be granted for the said Service." (*Mr. Smeaton.*)

Mr. Crombie (*Kincardineshire*) 1192
Mr. Black (*Banffshire*) 1194
Mr. Cochrane (*Aryshire, N.*) 1196
The Lord Advocate (*Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs*) 1199
Mr. Gulland (*Dumfries Burghs*) 1204
Mr. John Dewar (*Inverness*) 1207
Sir Henry Craik 1208
Mr. Sutherland (*Elgin Burghs*) 1209

Cork City Railways and Works Bill (BY ORDER).—Order for consideration, as amended, read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill, as amended, be now considered."

Mr. O'Shee (*Waterford, W.*) 1210
Mr. Power (*Waterford, E.*) 1215

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'this House, in view of the fact that by The Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Act, 1898, the Great Western Company and the Great Southern and Western Company undertook the obligation to construct similar works to those proposed by this Bill, declines to proceed with the Bill, on the ground that these companies are seeking by it to evade compliance with their said undertaking to Parliament and are also in default as regards the further obligation to construct a line from Fermoy to Dunkettle which they accepted under the said Act of 1898."—(*Mr. O'Shee*) —instead thereof—

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Hugh Law (*Donegal, W.*) 1218
Mr. William O'Brien (*Cork*) 1219
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.*) 1222
Mr. John O'Connor (*Kildare, N.*) 1224
Mr. Ashton (*Bedfordshire, Luton*) 1228

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 196 ; Noes, 29. (Division List No. 122.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, considered; to be read the third time.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,122,128, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland, including a Grant in Aid."

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,122,028, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Smeaton.*)

Mr. Sutherland 1233
Mr. Munro Ferguson (*Leith Burghs*) 1234
Mr. Sinclair 1235

And, it being Eleven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

Limited Partnerships Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow 1236

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 15th JUNE, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

The Lord Powerscourt (*V. Powerscourt*) sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

The Lord Gerard sat first in Parliament after the death of his father .. 1237

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Stand-Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).

Also the Certificates that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bills: Sea Fisheries Provisional Order; Land Drainage Provisional Order; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2); Local Government Provisional Order (No. 3); Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6); Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law).

And also the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Derby Gas; Pontefract Corporation; Rochester, Chatham, and Strood Gas; Cheltenham Gas; Edinburgh Corporation; Metropolitan Railway; South Suburban Gas.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1237

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [h.l.]; South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [h.l.].—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to .. 1237

Bute (English and Welsh) Estates Bill [h.l.].—Read 2ª, and committed .. 1237

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed for Tuesday next 1238

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1238

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill; London United Tramways Bill, Manchester Corporation Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed 1238

South-Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.]; Truro Gas Bill [H.L.]; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.]; Portsmouth Water Bill [H.L.]; Kent Electric Power Bill [H.L.]—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1238

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 1258

Southampton Gas Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 1238

North-East London Railway Bill.—Brought from the Commons, read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners 1238

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—Order of the day read for the House being put into Committee

Moved, "That the House resolve itself into Committee on this Bill."—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

The Earl of Camperdown 1238
The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Onslow*) 1240
The Lord President of the Council (*The Earl of Crewe*) 1241
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 1242

House in Committee (according to Order).

Moved, "After Clause 2, page 2, to insert Clause 3." 3.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act, 1899, as incorporated with the Bellshill Electric Lighting Order, 1906, the Blantyre Electric Lighting Order, 1906, the Bothwell Electric Lighting Order, 1906, the Shettleston and Tollcross Electric Lighting Order, 1906, and the Uddingston Electric Lighting Order, 1906, confirmed by this Act, the County Council of Lanark as undertakers under each of those Orders may supply electricity in bulk or otherwise from any generating station or works of the undertakers within the area of supply under any of those Orders for use in the area of supply under any of those Orders or in any other area within which the undertakers are or may hereafter be authorised to supply electricity. (2) For the purpose of affording such supply as in the last preceding sub-section mentioned the undertakers shall have and may exercise beyond the area of supply under any such Order all and the same powers and shall be subject to the same duties and obligations with respect to the breaking up of streets repairable by the local authority for the purpose of laying down or constructing electric lines or other works as the undertakers have or may exercise and are subject to under that Order within the area of supply under that Order in relation to the breaking up of streets for the purposes aforesaid and any expenses incurred by the undertakers in making a connection for the purpose of affording any such supply shall be defrayed by the undertakers as part of the expenses incurred by the undertakers under and for the purposes of the Order in force within the area to which the supply of electricity authorised by this section is given.—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

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The Earl of Camperdown 1243
Lord Newton 1244

House resumed; and to be again in Committee on Friday next.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed, and sent to the Commons

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.—Petition in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools; of parents of children attending school at Southoe; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1244

EDUCATION.—Petition that teachers may not be deprived of right to give religious instruction; of teachers in Deanery of Guth Caxton III., Diocese of Peterborough; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1244

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CANADA.—Correspondence relating to the complaint of certain printers who were induced to emigrate to Canada by false representations 1244

AFRICA No. 1. (1906).—Correspondence respecting the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Administration of the Independent State of the Congo. (In continuation of "Africa, No. 1, 1905.") 1245

MINT.—Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Mint, 1905 1245

LUNACY (SCOTLAND) ACT.—Forty-eighth Annual Report of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland 1245

TRADE.—Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions, 1905, compared with the four preceding years; Volume II. (Abstract and detailed tables of trade with each country and at each port); and miscellaneous tables.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1245

SAVINGS BANK AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

(Post Office Savings Banks Fund.) Account for the year ended 31st December, 1905.

(Savings Banks Fund) (Friendly Societies Fund.) Accounts for the year ended 20th November, 1905.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1245

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S ALLOTMENTS.—Return respecting; laid before the House (pursuant to Order of the 8th of May last), and to be printed. (No. 124.) .. 1245

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Wireless Telegraphy Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons 1245

Juvenile Smoking Bill [H.L.].—The following Lords were named the Select Committee, viz., E. Beauchamp, L. Bp. Ripon, L. Aberdare, L. Heneage, L. Biddulph.

The Committee to meet on Monday next, at a quarter before Four o'clock, and to appoint their own chairman 1245

THE DEEPER LOADING OF MERCHANT VESSELS.

Lord Muskerry 1246
The Earl of Granard 1244

Colonial Marriages Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day read for receiving Report of Amendment.

Moved, "That this Report be now received."—(*The Earl of Elgin.*)

The Earl of Halsbury 1247
Lord James of Hereford 1248

On Question, Report of Amendment received.

Bill to be read 3ª on Tuesday next.

Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill.—[SECOND READING].—Order of th Day for the Second Reading read

Earl Beauchamp 1249

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Earl Russell 1250

On Question, Bill read 2ª.

Earl Beauchamp 1250

Moved, "That the Bill be committed."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Earl of Camperdown 1251
Lord Newton 1251
The Duke of Northumberland 1251

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Finance Bill.—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

Viscount St. Aldwyn 1252
The Marquess of Ripon 1252
Viscount Goschen 1253

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

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London Squares and Enclosures Bill [H.L.]—Report from the Committee of Selection, "That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bill; viz., E. Camperdown (chairman), L. Digby, L. Sudley (*E. Arran*), L. James, L. Leith of Fyvie; agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly; The Committee to meet on Tuesday the 26th instant, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bill 1254

House adjourned at ten minutes past Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 15TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next .. 1254

North-East London Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed .. 1254

Newport Corporation Bill [LORDS] (by Order).—Read a second time, and committed 1254

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next 1254

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).—Mr. MOONEY reported from the Committee on Group H. of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 1255

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against; from Bolton; Corbridge-on-Tyne; Cowden; Heaton; Hurworth; Shelford with Newton and Saxondale; and Stratfield Mortimer; to lie upon the Table 1255

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions aganist alteration of law; from Arlesey; Bedford (thirteen); Benwick (two); Biddenham (two); Biggleswade; Bletsoe (two); Bolnhurst (two); Bromham (two); Cambridge (eighteen); Clapham (two); Clifton (two);

Cockayne Hatley ; Cople ; Coughton ; Coventry ; Cranfield (two) ; Creed with Grampound ; Doddington (two) ; Downham ; Dunstable (two) ; Dunton ; Eaton Bray ; Eaton Socon (two) ; Egginton (two) ; Evershott (two) ; Flitton ; Goldington ; Gouldrop ; Gravenhurst (two) ; Great Barford ; Harlington (two) ; Henlow (two) ; Houghton Conquest (two) ; Hulcote and Salford ; Kempston (two) ; Keysoe (two) ; Knotting ; Leighton Buzzard ; Lenton ; Leverington ; Lidlington ; Little Ouse ; Little Staughton ; Long Lawford ; Luton (six) ; Manea (three) ; March (four) ; Melchbourne (two) ; Millbrook ; Milton Ernest (two) ; New Bilton ; Newton (two) ; Newton in the Isle (two) ; Newton St. Loe ; Odell (two) ; Old Warden ; Parson Drove ; Potton ; Ravensden (two) ; Renhold ; Riseley (three) ; Salford ; Sandy (two) ; Sharnbrook ; Shelton (two) ; Shillington ; Silsoe ; Southsea with Murrow ; Speen (two) ; Stotford ; Studham ; Sundon ; Therney ; Upper Stondon ; Westoning ; Whittlesey ; Wilshamstead (two) ; Wisbech St. Mary (two) ; Woburn (two) ; Woodside ; Wootton ; Wymington (three) ; and Yielding ; to lie upon the Table 1255

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition from Edinburgh, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1256

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.—Petition from Bedford, against ; to lie upon the Table 1256

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.—Petitions for alteration of law ; form Eastbourne ; Guisborough ; and Longtown ; to lie upon the Table 1256

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Perth, against ; to lie upon the Table 1256

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration ; from Barry ; Bournemouth, and other places ; Buxton (two) ; Coventry ; Downton, and other places ; Dumbartonshire ; Dumfries Boroughs ; Eastbourne (two) ; Greenock ; Hackney ; Haggerston ; Hallamshire ; Hampstead (two) ; Helensburgh ; Market Harborough (two) ; Mid Gloucester ; North Norfolk ; Nottingham (West) ; Oldham ; Partick ; Plaistow ; Scarborough (two) ; Sheffield ; South Aberdeen ; Stirling ; and Widnes (two) ; to lie upon the Table 1256

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from Great Grimsby, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1256

SUNDAY TRADING (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Edinburgh, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1256

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MINT.—Copy presented, of Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Mint, 1905 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table .. 1256

SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—Accounts presented, showing Interest accrued in respect of the securities standing in the names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to the credit of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1905, and of the Fund for the Banks for Savings and the Fund for Friendly Societies for the year ended 20th November, 1905 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed [No. 198] 1257

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Africa (No. 1, 1906).—Copy presented, of Correspondence respecting the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Administration of the Independent State of the Congo [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1257

Metropolitan Police (Arrests).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 15th May; Sir Howard Vincent]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 199.] 1257

Lunacy (Scotland).—Copy presented, of Forty-eighth Annual Report of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1257

Canada.—Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to the complaint of certain printers who were induced to emigrate to Canada by false representations [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1257

Experiments on Living Animals.—Address for Return "showing the number of Experiments on Living Animals during the year 1905, under licences granted under the Act 39 and 40 Vic., c. 77, distinguishing the nature of the Experiments (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 170, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*) 1257

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Metric System for Weighing Foreign Letters.—Question, Mr. Kelley (Manchester, S.W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1257

Report of the Fisheries Board for Scotland.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1258

Introduction of the Crofters Acts Amendment Bill.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1258

Cottages Built under the Irish Labourers Act.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1260

Irish Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1259

Selection (Standing Committees).—Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures:—Mr. O'Mara; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Dolan.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Public Trustee Bill [Lords]. [Second Reading].—Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General (*Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.*) 1262

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Radford (*Islington, E.*) 1267
Mr. R. Pearce (*Staffordshire, Leek*) 1272

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Radford.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now,' stand part of the Question."

Sir Howard Vincent (*Sheffield, Central*) 1275
Mr. J. M. Henderson (*Aberdeenshire, W.*) 1277
Mr. George Faber (*York*) 1281
Mr. Bertram (*Hertfordshire, Hitchin*) 1286
Mr. Hills (*Durham*) 1287

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

Bills of Exchange Act (1882) Amendment Bill. [Second Reading].—Order for the Second Reading read.

Sir John Walton 1289

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir F. Dixon-Hartland (*Middlesex, Uxbridge*) 1290

Mr. Samuel Roberts (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 1290
Mr. George Faber (*York*) 1291
Sir Arthur Bignold (*Wick Burghs*) 1291

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Post Office Sites Bill.—Read a second time, and committed to a Select Committee of Five Members, Three to be nominated by the House, and Two by the Committee of Selection.

Ordered, That all Petitions against the Bill presented Five clear days before the meeting on the Committee be refered to the Committee; that the Petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their Counsel, or Agents be heard against the Bill, and Counsel heard in support of the Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records.

Ordered, That Three be the quorum."—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Bill. [Second Reading].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

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Captain Craig (*Down, E.*) 1293

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill.—Considered in Committee, and reported without Amendment; Bill read the third time, and passed.

Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Bill.—[Second Reading].—Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Younger (*Ayr Burghs*) 1294
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (*Lanarkshire, N.W.*) 1296

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"(*Mr. Younger.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The Lord-Advocate (*Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs*) 1299
Mr. Gulland (*Dumfries Burghs*) 1301
Mr. Munro Ferguson (*Leith Burghs*) 1302
Mr. Smeaton (*Stirlingshire*) 1303
Mr. Morton (*Sutherland*) 1303
Mr. Hudson (*Newcastle-on-Tyne*) 1304

Question put.

The House dvided :—Ayes, 250 ; Noes, 25. (Division List No. 123).]

Main Qustion put, and agreed to. Bill read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, &c.

Statute Law Revision (Scotland) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Mr. Claude Hay (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) 1307

Mr. Thomas Shaw 1308

Clause 1 agreed to.

Other clauses agreed to.

Schedule :—

Mr. Meysey Thompson 1309

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 15, to leave out the words 'of ridaris and gangaris throu the cuntre." '—(*Mr. Meysey-Thompson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

Mr. Thomas Shaw 1309

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Meysey-Thompson 1310

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 19, to leave out the words 'of sornaris.' "—(*Mr. Meysey Thompson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

Mr. Thomas Shaw 1311
Sir E. Carson 1312
Mr. Mitchell Thomson 1312

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Claude Hay (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) 1312

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 28, to leave out the words 'of slauchter of salmonde in tyme forbodyne be the law.' "—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

Mr. Thomas Shaw 1313

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Claude Hay 1313

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 40, to leave out the words 'of the custom of gold and silver had oute of the realme.' "—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

Mr. Thomas Shaw 1314

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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Meysey-Thompson 1314

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 42, to leave out the words 'of strangeris that sellis merchandise in the realme and takis mone tharfor.'"—(*Mr. Meysey-Thompson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

Mr. Thomas Shaw 1315
Mr. T. L. Corbett (*Down, W.*) 1315

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time upon Friday next.

School Board Electorate (Scotland) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next 1316

Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Tuesday next 1316

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at five minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 18TH JUNE, 1906.

The LORD THRING took the Oath.

CHARLES BARON RITCHIE OF DUNDEE was (in the usual manner) introduced by virtue of a patent dated December 22nd, 1905, his father, the first Baron, who was created by such patent, never having taken his seat 1317

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—Baker Street and Waterloo Railway ; Lancashire Electric Power ; St. Pancras Electricity ; Tottenham and Edmonton Gas ; Metropolitan District Railway ; Kettering Water ; Middlesex County Council (General Powers) ; North-West London Railway ; Bristol Corporation.

And also the certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with :—Metropolitan Water Board ; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) ; London County Council (General Powers).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 1317

London County Council (General Powers) Bill ; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill ; Metropolitan Water Board Bill.—Examiners' certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Friday next 1317

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill ; Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill.—Read 2^a (according to order) 1317

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill.—A petition of Messrs. Dyson and Company, of 9, Great George Street, Westminster, Parliamentary agents, praying for leave to present a petition of the Metropolitan Water Board, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 93 for presenting such petition has expired.—Read, and ordered to lie on the Table, and Standing Order No. 93 to be considered to-morrow in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition. 1317

Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 1318

London Squares and Enclosures Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, that the Lord Clinton be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bill in the place of the Lord Digby. Read, and agreed to 1318

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.].—Read 3 ; Amendments made ; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons 1318

Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [H.L.]—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1318

Hackney Electricity Bill.—Brought from the Commons. Read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners 1318

Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills—Ordered, that Standing Orders No. 72 and 82 be suspended for the remainder of the session .. 1318

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, &c.) Bill [H.L.].—Order of the day for the Third Reading read, and discharged .. 1318

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PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.—Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools, of teachers in schools at Levenshulme; Bolton; Stretford (2) and Chequerbent. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1318

EDUCATION.—Petitions in favour of maintenance of existing religious teaching in Church of England schools, of parents and guardians of children attending school at Rochdale; St. Mary's; Stretford; All Saints'; St. Brides; Roughtown; Levenshulme; Bolton, and St. John's. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1318

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.—Second Report from the Select Committee made, to be printed; and to be considered on Thursday next. (No. 125.) .. 1319

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3638. Portugal (Madeira).
No. 3639. France (Brest)
No. 3640. Mexico.
No. 3641. China (Newchwang) 1319

MISCELLANEOUS No. 1. (1906).—Reports from His Majesty's representatives abroad respecting the remuneration of Members of Parliament in foreign States 1319

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 AND 1888.—Special Report by the Board of Trade under Section 1 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1888.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1319

Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill.—Brought from the Commons and read 1^{a}, and to be printed 1319

Alkali, etc., Works Bill. [SECOND READING]. Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (*Earl Carrington*) 1319

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^{a}."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

Lord Belper 1320
Earl Carrington 1320

On Question, Bill read 2^{a} (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Reserve Forces Bill.—Order of the Day for Committee read.

The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) 1321

House again in Committee (according to order).

[The Earl of Onslow in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Amendments moved—

In page 1, line 22, after the word "Kingdom" to insert the words "or of British Protectorates ;" in lines 26 and 27, to leave out the words "the expression 'His Majesty's Dominions outside the United Kingdom' shall include British Protectorates" ; in line 28, to leave out the words "self-governing colony" and to insert the words "colony possessing responsible government" ; and in page 2, line 2, to leave out the words "powers of self-government" and to insert the words "responsible government."—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received to-morrow ; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 127.)

Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Bill— Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed 1322

Juvenile Smoking.—Moved, That the Select Committee appointed to consider the Juvenile Smoking Bill [h.l.] be empowered to consider the question of juvenile smoking generally, and its effect on the physical condition of children ; and to report whether any and if so, what, alterations in the law are desirable or practicable with a view to stopping the sale of tobacco and cigarettes to children below a certain age (The Lord Denman) ; agreed to, and ordered accordingly 1322

Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill.—House in Committee (according to order) ; Bill reported without Amendment ; Standing Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read 3 To-morrow 1322

House adjourned at a quarter before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 18th JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bills [Lords] (Standing Orders not Previously Inquired into Complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill [Lords].

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Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 1323

Provisional Order Bills (Standing Orders Applicable thereto Complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with viz. :—Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill,

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow 1323

Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 1323

Hackney Electricity Bill.—As amended, considered 1323

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed 1323

Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords].—[Not amended]; considered; to be read the third time 1323

Poole Corporation Water Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1324

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5, Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1324

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill.—Read a second time, committed 1324

Message from the Lords.—That they have agreed to—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Great North of Scotland Railway Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment.

Wireless Telegraphy Bill; Southampton Gas Bill, with an Amendment.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill.—With Amendments.

Amendments to—Holyhead Water Bill [Lords]; Mersey Railway Bill [Lords]; North Sussex Gas and Water Bill [Lords]; Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Education under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903, to enable the Councils of the Administrative Counties of Devon and the West Riding of Yorkshire to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts." [Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, &c.) Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903, to enable the London County Council to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts." [Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [Lords].]

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Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the time for taking certain lands and for the construction of certain street works and a tramway authorised by the Dover Corporation Act, 1901; to empower the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough of Dover to execute a further street work in connection with such works; and for other purposes." [Dover Corporation Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Folkestone Electricity Supply Company, Limited, with respect to the supply of electricity in the urban districts of Folkestone and Sandgate and the borough of Hythe; and for other purposes." [Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies, and the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Companies Managing Committee." [South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate and confer powers upon the Truro Gas Company." [Truro Gas Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Company to make an entrance channel and lock entrance into their existing South Dock; and to construct other works; and for other purposes." [Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Borough of Portsmouth Waterworks Company with respect to the raising of money; and for other purposes." [Portsmouth Water Bill [Lords].]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Kent Electric Power Company to construct a pier on the River Medway, and to extend their powers with respect to the supply of electricity; and for other purposes." [Kent Electric Power Bill [Lords].] 1324

Dover Corporation Bill [Lords]; Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [Lords]; South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords]; Truro Gas Bill [Lords]; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [Lords]; Portsmouth Water Bill [Lords]; Kent Electric Power Bill [Lords]; Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1325

Educational Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, &c.) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 257] 1326

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London No. 1) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 258] 1328

PETITIONS.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against; from Black Bourton; Codsall; Daventry (two); Halesworth and Chediston; Middleton Stoney; Mortimer West End; Nuttall; Souldern; and Winterton; to lie upon the Table 1326

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EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Bardwell; Congleton; Durham; Market Drayton; and Moreton Saye; to lie upon the Table 1326

PHARMACY BILL.—Petition from Nottingham, against; to lie upon the Table .. 1326

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration; from Battersea; Hull (two); Mile End; Paisley (two); Warrington (two); Wednesbury; and West Salford; to lie upon the Table 1326

SHOPS BILL.—Petition from Westminster, against; to lie upon the Table .. 1326

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS).—Copy presented, of Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions for 1905. Volume II. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1327

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 AND 1888.—Copy presented, of Special Report by the Board of Trade, under Section (1) of the Electric Lighting Act, 1888 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1327

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3638 to 3641 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1327

REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MISCELLANEOUS, No. 1, 1906).—Copies presented, of Reports from His Majesty's Representatives abroad respecting the Remuneration of Members of Parliament in Foreign States [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1327

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Inquiry into Charities (Administrative County of Devon). Further Return relative thereto [ordered 26th July, 1905; *Mr. Griffith Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 201] 1327

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—Return ordered, "of Net Public Income and Net Public Expenditure under certain specified heads, as represented by Receipts into and Issues out of the Exchequer from 1891–2 to 1905–6, inclusive (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 239, of Session, 1905)."—(*Sir Henry Fowler*) 1327

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH COLONIES).—Address for "Return showing what legislative measures have been taken in Foreign Countries and in British Colonies for the application of the principle of proportional representation to Public Elections, whether national, provincial, cantonal, municipal, or otherwise; and the results of the working of such measures during the periods in which they have been put into operation, with notices of any modifications or extensions which have been made therein."—(*Mr. J. M. Robertson.*) 1327

TECHNICAL EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Return ordered, "showing the extent to which, and the manner in which, local authorities in Scotland have allocated and applied funds to the purposes of Technical Education during the year ending the 15th day of May, 1906, under the following Acts: The

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Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890; The Education and Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1892; The Technical Schools (Scotland) Act, 1887; The Technical Instruction Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1892; and Public Libraries Acts."—(*Mr. Sinclair.*) 1328

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Second Term Rent for Mrs Higginbotham, County Cavan.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1328

Wages of Belfast Female Post Office Learners.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1329

Pay of Clerks in the Dublin Post Office.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1330

Training of Naval Stokers.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1331

Outfit Allowances for Naval Volunteers.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1331

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Bernard Martin.—Question, Mr. James O'Kelly (Roscommon, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1331

Case of John Cronin.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1332

Cases of Daniel Murphy and Michael O'Sullivan.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1332

Ejectment Notices on the Ballycleary Estate, Queen's County.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1332

Sale of the Owen Wyani Estate.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh (Leitrim, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1333

Second-Term Judicial Rents.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork Co., N.); Answer Mr. Bryce 1334

Irish Judicial Rents.—Question, Mr. Lundon (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1335

Refusal of Local Government Board to Sanction Appointment of Mr. Flanagan as Engineer and Architect to the Corofin District Council.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1336

Officers of Health in Rural Districts and Sanitation of National Schools.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1336

Protection from Contagious Diseases in Irish National Schools.—Questions, Mr. Sloan; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1337

Salaries of Irish National School Teachers.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1337

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IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF MRS. CATHERINE O'CONNOR.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1338

UNTENANTED FARMS ON THE CLANRICARDE ESTATE.—Question, Colonel McCalmont; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1338

ARMY PENSION FOR PATRICK FOX.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1339

AMERICAN FIRMS AND ARMY MEAT CONTRACT.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1340

RIFLE RANGE FOR WELSHPOOL.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1340

RELIGIOUS SERVICE IN THE THEATRE AT MALTA.—Question, Mr. Essex (Gloucestershire, Cirencester); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1340

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TRUSTEE SECURITIES.—Question, Mr. J. Williams Benn (Devonport); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1341

UNIFICATION OF RATING POWERS.—Question, Mr. J. Williams Benn; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1342

BOARDED-OUT POOR LAW CHILDREN.—Question, Colonel Herbert (Monmouthshire, S.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1342

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TRADE UNION WAGES IN ROYAL DOCKYARDS.—Question, Mr. J. Williams Benn; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1347

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The Militia and Separation Allowance.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1353

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St. Helena—Withdrawal of Garrison.—Question, Mr. Hicks-Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1356

Chicago Meat Supplies in the Boer War.—Question, Mr. Hicks-Beach; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1357

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Northern Nigeria Civil Service.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 1358

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Imprisoned Chinese Coolies.—Questions, Mr. Mond and Mr. Ashley; Answers, Mr. Churchill 1362

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RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN PROVIDED SCHOOLS.—Question, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1375

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1376

SHEEPSCAB IN NORTHUMBERLAND.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorks., W.R., Elland); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 1376

DANISH BACON EXPORTS.—Questions, Mr. Vincent Kennedy and Mr. Joyce; Answers, Sir Edward Strachey 1377

FIRES ON CROWN LANDS.—Question, Sir Robert Hobart (Hants, New Forest); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 1377

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MEMBERS' CATERING ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. F. E. Smith (Liverpool, Walton); Answer, Mr. Jacoby (Derbyshire, Mid.) 1378

IRISH MAGISTRACY.—Questions, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answers, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, Exchange) 1379

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COUNTY KERRY RURAL POSTMEN'S PAY.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1379

INDIAN AND THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.—Question, Sir H. Cotton; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 1380

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THE LATE MR. SEDDON.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1383

SCOTTISH ESTIMATES.—Questions, Mr. Crombie and Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1384

WORCESTER ELECTION PETITION.—Question, Mr. Billson (Staffordshire, N. W.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1384

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.—Question, Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1385

THE EDUCATION BILL.—Question, Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1385

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1385

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.—Reported from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc., with Amendments.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 202.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 202.]

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 256] 1386

NEW MEMBERS SWORN.—

Sir Frederick George Banbury, Baronet, for City of London.

The Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., Borough of St. George, Hanover Square 1386

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL PROCEDURE.—Motion made, and Question put, "That the consideration of business relating to the Education (England and Wales) Bill (Procedure), if under discussion at eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House):"—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman*).

The House divided:—Ayes, 366, Noes, 86. (Division List, No. 124) .. 1386

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (PROCEDURE).—

The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Sir H Campbell Bannerman, Stirling Burghs*) 1391

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Committee stage and Report stage of the Education (England and Wales) Bill, including the Financial Resolution relating thereto, shall be proceeded with in the following manner:—(*a*) That the remaining part of Clause 2 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the first allotted day; (*b*) That Clause 3 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day; (*c*) That three allotted days be given, if required, to Clauses 4 and 5 and the Committee stage of the Financial Resolution, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days; (*d*) That Clauses 6 and 7 and the Report stage of the financial resolution be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day; (*e*) That three allotted days be given, if required, to Clauses 8 to 13 and any Motion which may be made to leave out Part II. of the Bill, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days; (*f*) That two allotted days be given, if required, to Part III. of the Bill, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the second of these allotted days; (*g*) That Part IV. of the Bill be proceeded with, and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion, on the next allotted day; (*h*) That the remaining Clauses of the Bill and the Schedules, and any new Government Clauses, and any new Government Schedules, and any other matter necessary to bring the Committee stage to a conclusion, be proceeded with and brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day; (*i*) That three allotted days be given to the Report stage of the Bill, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days. After this Order comes into operation, any day shall be considered an allotted day for the purposes of this Order on which the Education (England and Wales) Bill is put down as the first Order of the Day. A Motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown to leave out Part II. of the Bill, or to leave out any Clause of the Bill, before the consideration of any Amendments to that Part or Clause in Committee. The Question on a Motion moved by a Minister of the Crown to leave out Part II. of the Bill or to leave out any Clause of the Bill shall be put forthwith by the Chairman or Speaker without debate. At 10.30 p.m. on any allotted day on which proceedings on any allotted business are to be brought to a conclusion, or if the day is a Friday, at 4.30 p.m., the Chairman or Speaker shall, if those proceedings have not already been brought to a conclusion, put forthwith the Question or Questions on any Amendment or Motion already

proposed from the Chair and shall next proceed successively to put forthwith the Question on any Amendments moved by the Government of which notice has been given (but no other Amendments), and on every Question necessary to dispose of the allotted business to be concluded, and in the case of Government Amendments or of Government new Clauses or Schedules, he shall put only the Question that the Amendment be made or that the Clause or Schedule be added to the Bill, as the case may be. At 11 p.m. on the day on which the Third Reading of the Bill is put down as first Order, or, if that day is a Friday, at 5 p.m., the Speaker shall put forthwith any Question necessary to conclude the proceedings on that stage of the Bill. Proceedings to which this Order relates shall not on any allotted day on which proceedings on any allotted business are to be brought to a conclusion under this Order, be interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House. After the passing of this Order, on any day on which any proceedings on the Education (England and Wales) Bill stand as the first Order of the Day, no dilatory Motion on the Bill nor Motion for Adjournment under Standing Order 10, nor Motion to postpone a Clause, shall be received unless moved by a Minister of the Crown, and the Question an any such Motion shall be put forthwith without debate. Any Private Business which is set down for consideration at 8.15 p.m. on any allotted day, or on the day on which the Third Reading of the Bill is put down as first Order, shall, instead of being taken on that day as provided by the Standing Order "Time for taking Private Business," be taken after the conclusion of the proceedings on the Bill for that day, and any Private Business, so taken may be proceeded with though opposed, notwithstanding the Standing Order "Sittings of the House."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 1397

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, to leave out all the words after the word 'That,' and to insert the words 'this House objects to a proposal which unduly limits the time allowed for the discussion in the House of Commons of a measure which is burdensome both to the taxpayer and the ratepayer, is unjust to the parents of children attending voluntary schools, and subsidising one form of religious instruction at the expense of the whole community.'"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the end of line 5, stand part of the Question."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 1409
Mr. Laurence Hardy (Kent, Ashford) 1412
Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) 1415
Mr. F. E. Smith (Liverpool, Walton) 1417
Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) 1420
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor) 1421
Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby) 1423
Mr. Hart-Davies (Hackney, N.) 1425
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 1426
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 1426
Sir Philip Magnus (London Uuiversity) 1429
Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle) 1430
Mr. Wyndham (Dover) 1432
Sir Francis Lowe (Birmingham, Edgbaston) 1433

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Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 341 ; Noes, 171. (Division List No. 125.)

Mr. John Rutherford (Lancashire, Darwen) 1439

Amendment proposed—

"In line 6, after the word 'that' to insert the words 'two days to be allotted to.'"

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. 1439
Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall) 1439
Sir William Anson (Oxford University) 1439
Mr. Carlile (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) 1440
Mr. Walter Long (Dublin County, S.) 1442

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 124 ; Noes, 281. (Division List No. 126.)

Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) 1447
Lord R. Cecil 1451

Amendment proposed—

"In line 8, to leave out the word 'three,' and insert the word 'five.'"—*(Mr. Lane-Fox.)*

Question proposed, "That the word 'three' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Birrell 1451
Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) 1451
Colonel Williams (Dorsetshire, W.) 1455
Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 1456
Mr. T. W. Russell 1460
Mr. Wyndham 1461
Mr. J. W. Wilson (Worcestershire, N.) 1462
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1462

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 335 ; Noes, 169. (Division List No. 127.)

Mr. Laurence Hardy 1469

Amendment proposed—

"In line 8, to leave out the words 'Clauses 4 and 5 and the Committee stage of the financial Resolution,' and insert the word 'Clause 4.'"—*(Mr. Laurence Hardy.)*

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University) 1471
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Mr. Lough, Islington, W.) 1471
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1472
Lord R. Cecil 1473
Mr. Walter Long 1474
Mr. Asquith 1475

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 362 ; Noes, 175. (Division List No. 128.)

Amendment proposed—

> " In line 12, to leave out from the word ' That,' to the end of line 14, and insert the words ' two days be given, if required, to Clauses 6 and 7, and the Report Stage of the financial Resolution, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the second of these allotted days.' "—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1481
Mr. Dillon 1482
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1482
Lord Balcarres 1483

Amendment proposed—

> " In line 15, to leave out the word ' three ' and to insert the word ' five.' "—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question proposed, " That the word ' three ' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Birrell 1483
Mr. Wyndham 1485
Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby) 1485
Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) 1485
Sir William Anson 1486

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 354 ; Noes, 158. (Division List No. 129.)

Mr. Lough 1491

Amendment proposed—

> " In line 19, to leave out from the word ' That,' to the end of line 22, and insert the words ' Clauses 25 to 34 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day, that Clauses 35 and 36 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day.' "—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Laurence Hardy 1491
Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry) 1492
Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) 1494
Mr. Birrell 1495
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1496

Question put and negatived.

Proposed words inserted.

Mr. Bridgeman 1496
Mr. F. E. Smith 1497

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out lines 23 and 24."—(*Mr. Bridgeman.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'That' stand part of the Question."

The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 1497
Sir William Anson 1497
Lord R. Cecil 1498
Mr. Birrell 1499
Mr. Walter Long 1500
Sir Henry Craik 1500
Lord Balcarres 1502

Mr. Asquith rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 328; Noes, 81. (Division List No. 130.)

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'That' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 329; Noes, 80. (Division List No. 131.)

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1511

Amendment proposed—

"In line 38, to leave out from the word 'Committee,' to the end of the paragraph."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Asquith 1512

Question put.

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The House divided :—Ayes, 272 ; Noes, 122. (Division List No. 132.)

Main Question, as amended, again proposed.

Mr. ASQUITH rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 269 ; Noes, 120. (Division List No. 133.)

Question put accordingly,

The House divided :—Ayes, 262 ; Noes, 121. (Division List No. 134.)

Ordered, That the Committee stage and Report stage of the Education (England and Wales) Bill, including the Financial Resolution relating thereto, shall be proceeded with in the following manner :—(*a*) That the remaining part of Clause 2 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the first allotted day ; (*b*) That Clause 3 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day ; (*c*) That three allotted days be given, if required, to Clauses 4 and 5 and the Committee stage of the Financial Resolution, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days ; (*d*) That two days be given, if required, to Clauses 6 and 7 and the Report stage of the Financial Resolution, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the second of these allotted days ; (*e*) That three allotted days be given, if required, to Clauses 8 to 13 and any Motion which may be made to leave out Part II. of the Bill, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days ; (*f*) That Clauses 25 to 34 be proceeded with, and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted days ; that Clauses 35 and 36 be proceeded with, and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day ; (*g*) That Part IV. of the Bill be proceeded with, and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion, on the next allotted day ; (*h*) That the remaining clauses of the Bill, and the schedules, and any new Government clauses, and any new Government schedules, and any other matter necessary to bring the Committee stage to a conclusion, be proceeded with and brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day ; (*i*) That three allotted days be given to the Report stage of the Bill, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days. After this Order comes into operation, any day shall be considered an allotted day for the purposes of this Order on which the Education (England and Wales) Bill is put down as the first Order of the Day. A Motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown to leave out Part II. of the Bill, or to leave out any clause of the Bill, before the consideration of any Amendments to that part or clause in Committee. The Question on a Motion moved by a Minister of the Crown to leave out Part II. of the Bill or to leave out any clause of the Bill shall be put frothwith by the Chairman or Speaker without debate. At 10.30 p.m. on any allotted day on which proceedings on any allotted business are to be brought to a conclusion, or if the day is a Friday, at 4.30 p.m., the Chairman or Speaker shall, if those proceedings have not already been brought to a conclusion, put forthwith the Question or Questions on any Amendment or Motion already proposed from the Chair, and shall next proceed successively to put forthwith the Question on any Amendments moved by the Government of which notice has been given (but no other Amendments), and on every Question necessary to dispose of the allotted business to be concluded, and in the case of Government Amendments or of Government new clauses or schedules, he shall put only the Question that the Amendment be made, or that the clause or schedule be added to the Bill, as the case may be. At 11 p.m. on the day on which the Third Reading of the Bill is put down as first Order, or if that day is a Friday at 5 p.m., the Speaker shall put forthwith any Question necessary to conclude the proceedings on that stage of the Bill. Proceedings to which this Order relates shall not, on any allotted day on which proceedings on any allotted business are to be brought to a conclusion under this Order be interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House. After the passing of this Order, on any day on which any proceedings on the Education (England and and Wales) Bill stand as the first Order of the day, no dilatory Motion on the Bill nor Motion for Adjournment under Standing Order 10, nor Motion to postpone a clause, shall be received unless moved by a Minister of the Crown, and the Question on any such Motion shall be put forthwith without debate. Any Private Business which is set down for consideration at 8.15 p.m. on any allotted day, or on the day on which the Third Reading of the Bill is put down as first Order, shall, instead of being taken on that day as provided by the Standing Order "Time for taking Private Business," be taken after the conclusion of the proeeedings on the Bill for that day, and any Private Business so taken may be proceeded with though opposed, notwithstanding the Standing Order "Sittings of the House."—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at twenty-eight minutes after Two o'clock.

END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS TO VOL. CLVIII.

VOLUME CLVIII.

ERRATA.

May 30th, 1906. Mr. THEODORE C. TAYLOR'S Speech.

In Col. 495, line 8, *for* "1895" *read* "1891."

In Col. 495, line 39, *for* "Liu" *read* "Lin."

In Col. 495, line 55, omit "to force us."

In Col. 496, line 3, *for* "three" *read* "thirty," and *for* "a very small duty compared with the duties that existed in other countries" *read* "per chest, or eight per cent. in value, a very small duty compared with the duties we were then levying upon imports into this country from China."

In Col. 496, lines 12 and 13, *for* "and therefore the duty on opium was bound to remain," *read* "from revision."

In Col. 496, line 21, *for* "he" *read* "they."

In Col. 496, line 35, *for* "tantalising" *read* "brutalising."

In Col. 497, line 27, *after* "would" *insert* "not."

In Col. 497, lines 28 and 29, *for* "In this report which" *read* "In the terms of reference of this Commission whose Report."

In Col. 497, after line 56, *insert* "In 1903 the United States sent out a Commission of enquiry on the opium question, which spent five months travelling over the countries to the west of the Pacific from China and Japan to Java and the Straits Settlements. What was the result?"

In Col. 498, line 25, *for* "Chinese" *read* "the Commission."

In Col. 499, line 38, after "it" *insert* "they thought."

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, APPOINTED TO MEET
THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE SIXTH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

SEVENTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1906.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 28th May, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1); London Government Schemes (London and Penge, etc.). Also the Certificate that no further Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill. Ritz Hotel [H.L.].

And also the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Ascot District Gas; Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, etc.) Bill [H.L.]. Order for the Third Reading To-morrow, discharged.

Dover Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That the Bill, on being reported, should be referred to the Chairman of Committees, in order that certain proofs and consents may be given in respect thereof; read, and agreed to. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments; and re-committed for To-morrow.

Kent Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill [H.L.]; County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [H.L.]; Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill [H.L.]; Southport and Lytham Tramroad (Extension of Time) Bill [H.L.]; Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [H.L.]; Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [H.L.]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Electric Supply) Bill [H.L.]; Crellin's Patents Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Churches Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª; and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Great Eastern Railway Bill. Read 3ª, and passed.

New Mills Urban District Council Bill; North East Lincolnshire Water Bill. Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Marriages Provisional Order Bill. House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª To-morrow.

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill (No. 104); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill (No. 105); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill (No. 106); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill (No. 107); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill (No. 108); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill (No. 109); Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill (No. 110); Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill (No. 111). Brought from the Commons and Read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

PETITIONS.

ELECTIONS (MEETINGS IN SCHOOLROOMS) BILL [H. L.].

Petition for amendment of; of metropolitan borough of Wandsworth; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Regulations for secondary schools (from 1st August to 31st July, 1907).

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES.)

No. 3600. Bolivia.

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1898.

Return showing the total payments into and out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) account, for the financial year 1905–1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Orders made by the councils of the following boroughs fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the respective boroughs. Borough of Hyde. Borough of Merthyr Tydfil. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table.

ELECTIONS (MEETINGS IN SCHOOLROOMS) BILL [H. L.].

Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

GROUND GAME BILL.

Read 1ª, and to be printed. (No. 103.)

BRITISH AND FOREIGN SHIPPING.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, I rise to call attention to the existing competition between foreign and British ships, and to ask whether His Majesty's

Government will furnish a Return showing the legal obligations of the owners of merchant vessels trading under the flags of Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Japan, Italy, Russia, Denmark, Spain, Austro-Hungary, Netherlands, Greece, and Belgium towards their captains, officers, and seamen with regard to the following:—old age pensions, pensions to widows and orphans, accident compensation, Sunday labour, daily hours of labour at sea and in port, payment for work performed in excess of fixed hours of labour, medical treatment, accommodation, and passages of distressed seamen; also including in such a Return the regulations of these different countries for the preservation of discipline on board their merchant ships.

My chief reason for asking for a Return of this kind is that it would prove a very valuable document to anybody interested in what is not only our greatest industry, but also our first and most important auxiliary force in the time of war—I mean the merchant service. Without it, our Army is useless for any operations outside these islands, and on it the Navy has to depend for coal and other supplies. I am sure we should all be anxious to encourage and support our mercantile marine and also to have a due regard for the welfare of those who man the ships of that marine. It has always been my most earnest desire that we should attach importance to the three aspects of the service—first, its national importance; second, its importance to the shipowner; and, third, its importance to our captains, officers, engineers and seamen, who are debarred from exercising the Parliamentary franchise although paying rates and taxes, and so have little opportunity of bringing their requirements before Parliament.

We are all very well aware—in fact it is now a cry of "wolf"—that immediately anything is introduced to enhance the safety of the seafarer or to improve his conditions, there is a great outcry on the part of the shipowners against what they term further restrictions and burdens being placed upon them. The bogey of "foreign competition" is freely trotted out, and if the State proposes to legislate in favour of our sailors the shipowners predict ruination to our merchant shipping, just as if other trades and industries in this country were free from legal obligations towards their employees.

To take the debate on the Workmen's Compensation Bill in another place, I see that one shipowner stated that an additional burden of the kind would drive sailing ships out of existence, and if the measure was passed British owners would be better off if they transferred their vessels to foreign flags. Another owner said that if the burden of the Act was entirely thrown on British shipping the effect would be that competing foreign ships would be benefited to the extent to which British shipping would be handicapped. In the shipowners' deputation which waited on the Home Secretary, similar complaints of the kind were given vent to very freely.

I am afraid that many of us are disposed to accept without question the pessimistic utterances of the shipowners of this country, without understanding in the slightest the conditions under which the shipowners of other maritime Powers carry on their business. It seems to be generally assumed that they have an absolutely free hand, but a greater mistake than this was never made. For instance, several of them are already required by the laws of their countries to grant compensation to injured seamen; and, furthermore, they are required to contribute to pension funds for their seaman as well as to adhere strictly to regulations as to Sunday labour and the number of hours during which their seamen are supposed to work. I think, therefore, that a Return such as I suggest would give us most useful information as to whether foreign shipowners are unduly favoured to the detriment of British shipowners.

I do not think that at the present time British shipowners have very much to grumble about. According to the estimate of the marine insurance correspondents of *The Times* the carrying capacity of the mercantile marine has been increased to the extent of from 2 per cent. to 3 per cent. by the revision of the load-line regulations. Under the Merchant Shipping Bill the "safety" regulations are to be imposed upon foreign ships in British waters, and furthermore, under the self-same Bill it is proposed that the permissible deck-loads carried in the winter-time shall be increased. I see that one shipping company says that under the new regulations as to the load-line the fact of their ships being able to load deeper will mean an increase in their freight returns of about 5 per cent.

To show that things are not as black as they are painted by British shipowners I would like to quote a few remarks from one who occupies a foremost position amongst them. I refer to Mr. W. Runciman, father of an esteemed member of His Majesty's Government, who, in addressing his shareholders, said:—

> "So far as shipping was concerned, he thought the indications were that we would have a fairly good year. He did not commit himself to saying that we were going to have any better results than the last, but he thought it would be no worse. To show his confidence in that view he was investing largely in shipping. He did not know anything that paid better than a shipping investment, taking it all round."

Touching upon the subject of discipline, I may say that one of the greatest evils in the merchant service is the deplorable amount of insubordination which exists. Both the shipowners, as represented by the Shipping Federation, and the Merchant Service Guild, as representing captains and officers, are cordially in agreement with me in this. It is stated to be due to the fact that our shore authorities show most mistaken leniency in dealing with delinquents, and that there are no really effective powers for preserving discipline. For instance, if a seaman signs an agreement to serve in a vessel and fails to join her, all that can be done with him is that his discharge book is marked "voyage not completed." If a seaman in the merchant service uses insulting or mutinous language towards his superior officer he is liable to a fine of 5s. If he committed a similar offence in the Royal Navy it might very easily mean a couple of years' imprisonment. Seamen and firemen desert in a wholesale manner in ports abroad, and the prosperity of the shipping industry is very seriously injured by the deplorable amount of insubordination existing.

We hear very little of lack of discipline on board foreign ships, and I am very much inclined to believe that it is because other countries take great care that the vitally important factor of discipline at sea is given special attention. Therefore, if we can get some reliable information as to the regulations of foreign maritime countries in this respect, it might give us the means of elucidating what is a very serious problem in connection with our own merchant service. Altogether a Return of the kind I ask for would be most enlightening and of great use, simply because we, and I do not except British shipowners, are very much in the dark as to the exact obligations of foreign shipowners to their seamen.

I have found a useful precedent for what I desire in the Commercial Return, No. 4, 1895, in which is given the educational standard required for candidates for positions as masters, mates and engineers in certain foreign navies. The necessary information was supplied by Her late Majesty's representatives at Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburgh, Brussels, the Hague, Stockholm and Washington, so I hope that His Majesty's Government will enter no objections to obtaining the information in a similar way and giving the Return which I have asked for.

Moved, "That there be laid before the House a Return showing the legal obligations of the owners of merchant vessels trading under the flags of Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Japan, Italy, Russia, Denmark, Spain, Austro-Hungary, Netherlands, Greece, and Belgium towards their captains, officers, and seamen with regard to the following:—Old age pensions, pensions to widows and orphans, accident compensation, Sunday labour, daily hours of labour at sea and in port, payment for work performed in excess of fixed hours of labour, medical treatment, accommodation, and passages of distressed seamen; also including in such a Return the regulations of these different countries for the preservation of discipline on board their merchant ships.—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, in reply to my noble friend I have to say that His Majesty's Government have no objection to granting the major part of the Return moved for. I would ask my noble friend to leave out Spain and Japan. There are several reasons why these Returns are hard to obtain; and I should also be glad if the noble Lord would omit the last few lines with reference to the regulations of the different countries for the preservation of discipline on board their merchant ships. If these lines were omitted the Return would be able to be presented much sooner than would otherwise be the case. However, I do not press my noble friend on that point, and if he wishes them to remain on the Paper I have no objection to the granting of the Return in that form.

LORD MUSKERRY: I accept the exclusion of the two countries named by the noble Lord.

On Question, Motion, as amended, agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS (REGISTRATION OF PATENT AGENTS) BILL [H.L.]

Report of Amendments received.

THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, I must apologise to your Lordships for bringing forward Amendments at the present time, but my excuse must be my want of knowledge of the procedure of your Lordships' House. The object of my first Amendment is to provide that the penalty shall be imposed only if the title is used "with intent to deceive." This Amendment was not moved last year, but a letter to that effect was written to the Board of Trade by Lord Halsbury, who suggested that the Bill should be amended in the way now proposed. Communication was opened with the noble and learned Lord in charge of the Bill, and he consequently then withdrew the Bill. I understand that the present Lord Chancellor is also in favour of this Amendment. As the Bill stands at present, a person prosecuting under it could get a conviction if a person other than a registered patent agent held himself out to be a patent expert or used any of the other titles referred to. The words which I propose by this Amendment to insert would make it necessary also to prove that the title was used with intent to deceive. The Board of Trade would like to make a suggestion. They think it would be a good thing if the Patent Office were in some way able to discriminate so as to be in a position to refuse to deal with persons who had been guilty of misconduct.

Amendment moved.

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'If' to insert the words 'with intent to deceive.'"—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

LORD COLERIDGE: My Lords, I hope your Lordships will not accept the Amendment which has just been moved on behalf of the Board of Trade, the effect of which would be practically to destroy the purpose of the Bill. If my noble friend's Amendment is carried, I cannot conceive of any conditions in which a prosecution would be possible. Before a man holding himself out to be a patent expert could come within the Act he must by this Amendment use the title with intent to deceive. What does intent to deceive mean? A man who has been struck off the list of patent agents for disgraceful professional conduct continues to practise, using the title patent expert instead of patent agent. He describes himself to persons as an expert. He has perhaps devoted all his life to this business, and therefore is an expert. I have in my hand the actual advertisement of a man who has been struck off the roll of patent agents for disgraceful professional conduct and who is now issuing the same advertisement as before, simply substituting the word "expert" for "agent." He has a perfect right to say he is an expert, and if this Amendment is inserted he will not be touched under the Bill, for he would not be deceiving anyone by saying he was an expert. This is the very class of case which the Bill was framed to hit, and if the words proposed by the noble Earl are inserted the Bill becomes waste paper. If that pleases the Board of Trade so be it, but at any rate the object with which the Bill was introduced will be entirely destroyed.

LORD ALVERSTONE: My Lords, I desire to join in the appeal of the noble and learned Lord, and to ask His Majesty's Government not to insist on this Amendment. I have had this matter before me officially and unofficially for many years, and I sent a Memorandum to the Board of Trade which led to this class of legislation being suggested. If these words are inserted, not only will the Bill fail to be of any use, but there will be no possibility of protecting those persons who do get taken in by fraudulent patent agents. There is already in the ninth line of the Bill the word "knowingly." Therefore to constitute an offence under the Bill not only must a man who is not qualified call himself a patent agent, but he must have knowingly done so. The word "knowingly" in the clause would prevent any person being hit for an innocent mistake; but the words "intent to deceive" would give no protection to the public. I had for many years a great deal to do with patent agents and the patent law, and I know what the mischief is. I should like to add that in regard to previous Bills in connection with which I had the honour of advising the Board of Trade dealing with the prevention of the improper use of titles, I am not aware of these words having been inserted.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): My Lords, I take exactly the same view on this subject as was expressed last year by the noble and learned Earl who preceded me in my present Office, that this is a class of legislation which, though it may be necessary and beneficial, has to be safeguarded against abuse. The Act of 1888 enacts that if a man describes himself as a patent agent and is not registered he may be prosecuted. That is a kind of legislation which, as I say, ought to be rather carefully watched. It turns out that people avoid the use of the precise term "patent agent," but represent themselves as such by employing other titles. Thereupon my noble and learned friend proposes in this Bill that if any person other than a registered patent agent knowingly takes or uses, whether by description on his place of business or elsewhere, or by advertisement, or in or on any paper or document, or otherwise, and whether in his own name or any other name, the title of agent for obtaining patents, or patent registration agent, or patent attorney, or inventor's agent, or patent expert, or any other name, title, addition, or description stating or implying that he is a patent agent, or uses on his place of business, or elsewhere, the words patent office, office for patents, patent agency, or any other words implying in any way that he acts or practises in any part of the United Kingdom as an agent for obtaining patents, he shall be liable on summary conviction for each offence to a fine. The Board of Trade now propose the addition of the qualification "with intent to deceive." Unless it can be shown that a man does use the title with intent to deceive, why should he be prosecuted and made liable to a fine? I share the dislike which was expressed by my noble and learned friend Lord Halsbury to laying people open, by a clause of this kind, to conviction unless you can show that they committed the offence with intent to deceive. If they do not use the title with intent to deceive, I repeat that I do not see why they should be prosecuted.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My Lords, I feel very great reluctance in saying even a few words to your Lordships on this very technical subject, especially in view of the fact that the learned lights who advise your Lordships' House are not agreed as to what ought to be done. I have already had occasion once to be reproved by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack—very kindly and courteously reproved, I admit—for venturing to hold an opinion upon a legal point, and I shall certainly not incur his reproof on the present occasion. The question is evidently a very difficult and very subtle one. We have on the one side the Lord Chief Justice of England and the noble and learned Lord opposite, who declare that no change in the Bill in this respect is required. We have, on the other side, the late Lord Chancellor and the present Lord Chancellor and the whole force of the Board of Trade, as represented by the noble Earl on the Front Bench opposite. In these circumstances, my Lords, so far as we are concerned who sit upon these benches, we can hardly advise your Lordships to do otherwise than support the Government. They have access to the official advisers to the Board of Trade, they have the great legal acumen of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, and they have also the important assistance of the noble and learned Earl the late Lord Chancellor. Under these circumstances, so far as we are concerned, we shall not resist the Amendment moved on behalf of His Majesty Government.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF GRANARD: My next Amendment, to leave out the word "knowingly," is consequential.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, page 1, line 9, to leave out the word 'knowingly.'"—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF GRANARD: The object of my Amendment to Clause 3 is to provide that this Bill, when it comes into operation, shall not apply to any person who was prior to the commencement of the Act *bona fide* practising as an agent for obtaining patents in the United Kingdom, and whose name is for the time being entered on a list to be kept by the Board of Trade. The Board of Trade are of opinion that those who have been practising in the past should be allowed to go on doing so, but they also think there should be some means of preventing such persons being in a better position than registered patent agents, who are liable to be removed from the list for misconduct, and they have provided accordingly.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 3, page 1, line 21, to leave out from the word 'any' to the end of the clause and to insert the words 'person who was prior to the commencement of this Act *bona fide* practising as an agent for obtaining patents in the United Kingdom, and whose name is for the time being entered on a list kept by the Board of Trade in the prescribed manner. (2) Every person who proves to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade that prior to the passing of this Act he had been practising as an agent for obtaining patents shall, on making application for the purpose within six months after the passing of this Act, and on payment of the prescribed fee, be entitled to have his name entered on the list unless his name has been erased from the register of patent agents or the Board of Trade are satisfied that he has been guilty of such an offence or misconduct as would have rendered him liable, if his name had been on the register, to have his name erased therefrom. (3) The name of a person on the list may be erased therefrom on any ground on which a name on the register may be erased therefrom. (4) In this section 'prescribed' means prescribed by general rules under the Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Act, 1883, as amended by any subsequent enactment.'"—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

LORD COLERIDGE: I accept the Amendment, which seems to me to be an improvement of the Bill.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF GRANARD: My next Amendment is on Clause 4, which provides that in and for the purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, person includes a body corporate. I beg to move to leave out the words "unless the context otherwise requires."

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, lines 4 and 5, to leave out the words 'unless the context otherwise requires.'"—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

LORD COLERIDGE: What is the object of omitting these words?

THE EARL OF GRANARD: The words are proposed to be omitted so as to make it quite certain that in this Act person includes a body corporate.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD COLERIDGE: The object of the Amendment standing in my name is to meet the case of a reconstruction merely, where the body corporate is exactly the same though legally it may be a different thing.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 5, after the word 'corporate' to insert the words 'and its successor.'"—(*Lord Coleridge.*)

THE EARL OF GRANARD: I accept the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

VOLUNTEER RIFLE RANGES.

LORD NEWTON: My Lords, I rise to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War if it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to discontinue the practice of contributing towards the cost of the construction of Volunteer rifle ranges. I have been prompted to place this Question on the Paper by a case which has been brought to my notice relating to some Volunteers in Essex. There is a Volunteer corps at Maldon who a short time ago possessed a range. The range was closed on account of its being unsafe, and in consequence the members of this corps are now put to great inconvenience. They have, I understand, to make long journeys to perform their target practice, and altogether they are subjected to considerable expense and inconvenience.

Naturally these Volunteers determined to construct a new range, and the estimated cost amounted to between £400 and £500. I understand that about £150 or so was subscribed locally, and thereupon they applied for Government assistance. Under an Act passed a few years ago, I think when Mr. Brodrick was Secretary of State for War—the Military Works Loans Act—grants of money were occasionally made for the purpose of aiding the establishment of rifle ranges for Volunteers. In view of the ecstatic admiration which is so constantly expressed by members of the present Government for the Volunteers, they applied with confidence for a grant, and they must have been singularly disappointed when they received this letter, the chilly terms of which I will read to your Lordships—

> "In reply to your letter, I am desired to inform you that no provision is made in the Estimates for 1906–7 for Volunteer rifle ranges. A portion of the fund provided under the Military Works Loans Act was allotted for the purpose of grants in aid towards such ranges, but this money is now exhausted."

It is quite obvious that this is a question which does not concern solely this particular Volunteer corps in Maldon, but it is one of considerable importance to the Volunteer force generally, and I am particularly anxious to obtain a categorical answer from my noble friend as to what the actual intentions of His Majesty's Government are.

I may explain that I do not bring this question forward out of any particular solicitude for the Volunteer force. I candidly own, and I am not ashamed to admit it, that I hold the opinion that the establishment of the Volunteer force was one of the greatest mistakes that we ever committed; and for this reason, that so long as these patriotic men continue to give their services as Volunteers they will always be made an excuse by whatever Government happens to be in power for not urging upon the country to carry out that one measure which is universally recognised, except in this country, as being necessary for a nation's security. I really bring this case forward as an instance, and not an uncommon instance, of what I may describe as the absolutely contemptible spirit in which we face questions of home defence in this country.

This is not altogether without its humorous side, because I observe that numerous eminent people, from the editor of the *Spectator* upwards, when they make, as they frequently do, speeches upon our military weakness, always conclude in the same strain. They end by saying that, whatever happens, we must form ourselves into what they are pleased to call a nation of marksmen, and with this great end in view we are all invited to establish rifle ranges in our cellars or upon our housetops, or in any place that may be convenient; and I am only awaiting the moment, which no doubt will shortly arrive, when Lord Esher's military Duma, if I may be allowed to give it that name, will recommend that provision shall be made for shooting with pop-guns or air-guns in Ministerial ante-rooms, station waiting rooms, and many other places which no doubt will occur to them before they have concluded their labours. But when, however, a body of serious and patriotic men asked to be allowed to have a rifle range on which they are to shoot with real rifles, what do the Government say? The Government in effect, reply, "Oh you want a rifle range? Well no doubt, that is a very estimable desire on your part, but we are not going to do anything to help you. If you want a range, why don't you get up a bazaar, have a raffle or a jumble sale, or get the neighbouring landlord to let you have his ground rent free, so that you can shoot upon it?" Personally, I hold that this justifies what I venture to term the contemptible attitude of the country with regard to the question of home defence. To my benighted understanding there can be nothing more grotesque and absurd than to hand over what is admitted to be a public and a national necessity to a few public-spirited individuals. Either you believe in the Volunteers or you do not. If you do not believe in them, you had better honestly say so at once, and let us create something in their stead; but, if you do believe in them, and you are always saying you do, then I contend that it is your bounden duty to make them as effective as possible, to grant their reasonable demands, and above all, not to try and throw upon private individuals what is a public and national liability.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The EARL of PORTSMOUTH): My Lords, I must thank my noble friend for having also given me private notice of this Question, and I shall endeavour to give him a categorical Answer. I wish to take the earliest possible opportunity of assuring my noble friend that His Majesty's Government, as I believe were the late Government, are very well disposed towards the Volunteers, and I am not aware that this Government any more than the last look upon the Volunteers in the deprecatory light in which my noble friend does. I am afraid, however, that my noble friend will not consider as satisfactory the Answer which I have to give to his Question. I would draw his attention to the statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on May 1st,† in the course of the discussion on the Budget proposals. His pronouncement on the practice which had grown up of contributing to the cost of Volunteer ranges out of the funds provided under the Military Works Loans Act was very definite, and I fear no financial assistance from this source can be expected for such purposes in future. If my noble friend will refer to that discussion in the House of Commons he will find that the Military Works Loans Act was abused to such an extent that small sums like £4 and £5 were lent for this purpose, to be carried over a term of thirty years. Neither has any money been provided for the purpose in the Army Estimates for the current year. While I can, therefore, hold out no hope that the practice of contributing to the cost of Volunteer ranges out of loan funds will be continued, I can assure him that the Army Council are fully alive to the importance of range accommodation for the Volunteers.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: My Lords, we have no right to complain of the frankness of the reply of the noble Earl, but I think people interested in the Volunteers have a right to complain of the decision to which His Majesty's Government have come. We are quite aware that the money allotted under Military Works Loans for this purpose is exhausted, but I am sure the noble Earl opposite will do us on this side of the House the justice of admitting that when we, His Majesty's late Government, announced that we did not intend adhering to the general policy of Military Works Loans, nobody ever imagined for an instant that all the services which had previously been carried out on Military Works Loans were to be dropped. It has been announced that no more money is to be spent on such services out of Military Works Loans, but that does not prevent His Majesty's Government putting down a sum in the Estimates and giving Volunteer corps on an average about half the cost that they incur in providing themselves with ranges.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I think my noble friend is labouring under a misapprehension. I did not make any statement as regards the future. I only said that there was no provision in the Estimates for the year 1906–7. I said I could not hold out any hope that the practice of contributing to the cost of rifle ranges out of Military Works Loans funds would be continued. That is quite a different thing.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: I am obliged to the noble Earl for the correction. I earnestly hope His Majesty's Government will consider very seriously the advisability of continuing this help to the Volunteers in the future, though I admit that it ought to be done out of Estimates.

THE CASE OF MR. J. A. NELSON.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, I rise to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, having regard to the case of Mr. J. A. Nelson, chief officer of the R.M.S. "Aro," who was tried in Sierra Leone and sentenced to nine months imprisonment with hard labour, for shooting a Krooboy, at Monrovia in Liberia, and whose sentence was subsequently reduced in this country, it would be possible to give instructions that in future where the officer of a British ship is charged with a crime committed in a foreign port, that officer shall be brought to the United Kingdom for trial, and not taken for trial, as was Nelson in the case referred to, to a colonial court. I wish to express my thanks to the noble Earl the Secretary of State for the Colonies for his kindness and courtesy in the case of Mr. Nelson, and I beg to assure him that his action in this matter is very strongly appreciated, and will be gratefully remembered by the captains and officers of the merchant service.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 469.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ELGIN): My Lords, as the noble Lord has referred to the case of Mr. Nelson, I think it right to say that I have noticed some statements with regard to this case which might imply that I had thrown some discredit on the court in the colony. I wish emphatically to say, that in directing the release of Mr. Nelson, I did not intend in any way to reflect either on the fairness of the trial itself, on the judge who tried the case, or on any of the officers concerned. On the contrary, I endeavoured to avoid any imputation on the justice of the conviction, but having regard to the further information which had reached me and which was not before the court, I think I was justified in holding that the case was one in which the clemency of the Crown might be exercised, and I so humbly advised His Majesty.

With regard to the Question which the noble Lord has now placed on the Paper, I have to reply that Section 689 (1^a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, Cap. 60, provides that whenever a complaint is made to a British consular officer that any offence against property or person has been committed, either on shore or afloat, out of His Majesty's dominions by any master seaman or apprentice who at the time the offence was committed was employed on any British ship, the consular officer may inquire into the case on oath and send the offender in custody to the United Kingdom, or any British possession at which there is a court capable of taking cognisance of the offence. The section goes on to give the necessary ways and means of sending offenders for trial.

I imagine it is for the Foreign Office to consider whether they would direct a consular officer, in the exercise of the discretion conferred upon him by the Statute, in all or certain cases to send the accused person to this country rather than to a British possession. But it would be undesirable to do so in all cases, because the witnesses would have to be sent home too, and this would cause great inconvenience, and in the case of native witnesses possibly danger to health, and if they refused to come the case might break down and a guilty man escape. Moreover, it is desirable that criminal proceedings should be taken as speedily as possible, and it saves time, trouble, and expense to conduct them in the nearest British Colony. I have also to inform the noble Lord that once an accused person has arrived in the jurisdiction of the colonial court that court is required to institute proceedings in the case of any person charged with an offence committed in the jurisdiction of the Admiralty, as Nelson's offence was, and I know of no power, statutory or otherwise, to enable the case to be withdrawn from the colonial court.

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL [H.L.]

Moved, that the following Lords be named of the Select Committee, viz., E. Dartmouth, V. Selby, L. Bp. Ripon, L. Aberdare, L. Heneage.—(*Lord Denman.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, before the Motion is put I desire to say one word with regard to the proposed constitution of the Committee. No one could for a moment take exception to the names of the five Peers on the Paper, but I observe that the noble Lord who moved for the Committee is not to have a place upon it, and that it comprises no one representing or connected with His Majesty's Government. In an inquiry of this kind, it has, I think, always been usual for the Peer who moved for the inquiry to take a part in it. Presumably, before moving for a Committee that Peer had made himself thoroughly aware of the general bearing of the case, and he is therefore able to some extent to bring it before the Committee, and to guide their deliberations. If there is any particular reason for which the Peer who moved for the Committee cannot take part in it, then one would rather have expected that some noble Lord connected with the Government and in relation with the Home Office would have been given a place upon the Committee. I think it worth calling the attention of the House to this matter, and I invite an explanation.

LORD REAY: As regards my not being included on this Committee, I should like to say that it is at my own request. The matter is not an intricate one, and the Peers who are proposed to be appointed to serve on this Select Committee are quite competent and able to deal with it.

I hope the noble Marquess will accept that explanation as satisfactory.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH: My Lords, I should like to ask what will be the terms of reference to the Committee when it is appointed. I understand that the Committee will meet to-morrow. I shall not be able to be present at that meeting, but I should like to know, if possible, what the terms of reference are to be, and whether the Committee will have to consider this Bill and suggest Amendments or whether they will report on the whole question.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, I am disposed to join in the regret expressed by the noble Marquess opposite that my noble friend Lord Reay did not feel himself able to join the Committee. Perhaps in the circumstances it might be satisfactory to the noble Marquess if the Motion were to stand over for a day, in which case we might consider the whole subject further.

On Question, debate adjourned.

CHINESE CUSTOMS.

LORD REAY rose to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he could give any information with regard to the alterations which the Imperial Government of China intended to make in the administration of the Customs. The noble Lord said: My Lords, the Imperial Maritime Customs Service of China, to which my Question refers, controls not only China's import and export trade as carried on in foreign ships, but the collection of dues and duties on much of her coast trade, her internal transit trade, her riverain trade, and some of her salt and other monopolies. The lighting and buoying of her coasts, the care of her harbours, and a postal service lately established are also under the energetic, able, and tactful supervision of Sir Robert Hart, the Inspector-General.

The service has its origin in the Treaty with China of 1842, when a fixed import and export tariff on all goods carried by vessels under a foreign flag was agreed upon. The first war indemnity was secured on this revenue. About 1855 a committee of consular officials supervised the Customs House at Shanghai. This proved so satisfactory that the system was extended to all open ports. The Treaty of 1858–60 increased the number of open ports and extended and readjusted the tariff. Subsequent treaties between China and the Powers have enlarged the field of operations, and at present forty ports are open to foreign trade with Customs houses under the Inspector-General's administration.

The first Inspector-General was Mr. H. N. Lay, and since the early sixties Sir Robert Hart has been the distinguished head of this important Department. He is responsible for the efficiency of the service to the Foreign Office, the Wai-Wu-Pu, formerly known as the Tsungli-Yamen. He makes his Reports to and receives his instructions from the Foreign Office. English and Chinese are the official languages of the service. Friendly relations exist between the officials and the people. The duties and dues are paid into Chinese banks. When a loan was required by China for the Japanese War Indemnity in 1896–8 one of the conditions of the loan was the grant by the Chinese Government of a guarantee that the present conditions of the Service should continue so long as our loans remain outstanding, and that the Inspector-General should be a British subject while British trade retained its paramount place.

A recent Edict raises the question whether the efficiency of this administration will be impaired. By this Edict Tieh-Liang, President of the Board of Revenue, is appointed superintendent of Customs, and Tong-shao-Yi, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Foreign Affairs, is appointed Associate Minister of Customs. All Chinese and foreigners employed at the Customs offices are placed under their control. This seems to imply that Sir Robert Hart is no longer under the direct supervision of the Foreign Office, but that he will report to and receive his instructions from this new Board. As many questions will have to be referred by this Board to the Foreign Office, the Wai-Wu-Pu, there will be delay, and there is considerable apprehension that the relations between the Inspector-General and the Government and of the Inspector-General and his subordinates may be altered.

As the good administration of the Chinese Customs is the sole guarantee for a debt of £40,000,000, the Powers who are the creditors of China are deeply interested in the maintenance of the guarantees of good administration and in defeating any attempt to weaken the authority of Sir Robert Hart. It is also against the interest of China that the financial credit of the country should be shaken. I am aware that His Majesty's Government have taken immediate steps to enforce the fulfilment of the stipulations of the loan contracted in 1898, and that the American Minister at Pekin has been instructed to join in the protest made also, as I understand, by other Powers against the proposed changes. I trust that my noble friend will be able to give the House some reassuring information on this very serious controversy, and perhaps communicate the answer — if it has been received — to the second Note of our *Chargé d'Affaires* at Pekin.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE): My Lords, I think your Lordships will agree that it was very natural, especially as the House will very shortly be adjourning, that the noble Lord should ask a Question on this matter, which is exciting such great interest in commercial circles, and, I may say, in other circles besides. My noble friend has quite correctly described the origin, position, and duties of the Chinese Board of Customs, which is popularly known as the European service. The Chinese loans of 1896–1898 have also been quite correctly described by my noble friend. The exact stipulation which those loans contain is that—

> "The Chinese Imperial Government undertake that the administration of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs shall remain as at present constituted during the currency of this loan."

The 1896 loan was to be current for thirty-six years, and the 1898 loan for forty-five years. An Imperial Edict was promulgated at Peking on May 10th last, appointing Tieh Liang, President of the Board of Revenue, to be Superintendent of Customs Affairs, with Tong-Shao-Yi as Associate Minister of Customs Affairs. All Chinese and foreigners employed at the various Customs offices were placed under their control.

Lord Rea.

It will be seen from the nature of the Edict that a dangerous atmosphere of ambiguity was immediately thrown around the existing staff, and especially the superior staff, involving a doubt as to whether they were in future to occupy the independent position which hitherto they had occupied. The subject received the immediate attention of His Majesty's Government, and they at once asked for an explanation of the decree, stating that they could not suppose that its object was to interfere with the powers now exercised by the Inspector-General, Sir Robert Hart, but that, if that were the intention, it would be a distinct breach of the engagement given in the loan agreements. The reply which very shortly followed from the Chinese Government was to the effect that they disclaimed any intention of not adhering to the loan agreements. His Majesty's Government understand this to mean that the terms of the decree will not make any change in the present administration of the Customs, but we were not altogether satisfied with the reply received and have asked for a definite assurance to the effect which I have just described. In taking this step His Majesty's Government are acting with the knowledge of the other Powers interested, with whose representatives His Majesty's *Chargé d'Affaires* at Peking is in communication. I believe the House is aware that Sir Ernest Satow is at this moment on his way back to this country, and that Mr. Carnegie is *Chargé d'Affaires* at Peking.

My noble friend has very naturally asked whether the reply from the Government of China to the second Note has been received. It has not yet been received, but communications are still proceeding, and we expect a reply to the Note very shortly indeed. There is no intention on the part of His Majesty's Government, I can assure the House, to allow this question to be involved in any undue delay. We fully realise the great interest which is taken in this subject and its great importance to the trade and commerce of this country in China, and indeed of all nations trading with China. We are acting in perfect harmony with the other Powers on this subject, and I include amongst them the United States and Japan. If, however, the maintenance of the present arrangements is desirable, from the point of view of the trade and commerce of this country and other countries trading with China, it is, if possible, even more desirable in the interests of the Chinese Government itself. My noble friend indicated that as his opinion. The benefit and advantage to the Chinese Government of the present system can hardly be exaggerated. It can undoubtedly be described as a model of efficiency and economy not only absolutely and by itself, but in contrast with the confusion of the provincial revenue services, in the midst of which it is carried on.

The training of Chinese by Sir Robert Hart and his staff, able to take the place of foreigners in the Chinese service, may doubtless be said to be itself in a certain way one of the aims of the Foreign Inspectorate, and it may be that in the course of time the Chinese Government may desire and may not be unable to administer this branch of the Civil Service of the country itself. But that day has certainly not yet come, nor do I think any one would be justified in saying it was even near. Meanwhile, no hand should be lightly laid on the Imperial Customs Service which has been recently, and, as I think aptly, described by a writer very familiar with China and its system of Government as the "one reliable and efficient administration, the one bright spot in surrounding chaos." I hope your Lordships will not think that in reserving any further statement I am acting in any way unfairly to the House. I feel sure your Lordships will realise that it would not be desirable for me to convey to the House the substance of any further reply from the Chinese Government until we are fully informed of its nature and are perfectly certain of its meaning.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, the statement to which we have just listened seems to me entirely satisfactory. The announcement that the Chinese Maritime Customs were likely to pass under Chinese control created something like consternation in this country, and the consternation would, I think, have been even more general and more marked if we could really have brought ourselves to believe that the rumour was entirely true. I rejoice that His Majesty's Government have put their foot down with regard to this most important question, and I hope they will keep their foot down, and that we may look before long for some reply from the Chinese Government less evasive and more definite than that with which they characteristically attempted to put off His Majesty's Government at first.

A change in the administration of the Chinese Customs would be disastrous to all parties concerned. It would be most prejudicial to our commercial interests, which greatly exceed those of any other country; it would be prejudicial to the interests of other Powers who, like ourselves, are concerned in the trade of that part of the Asiatic continent; and it is satisfactory to know that all the Powers are at one with us and are giving us their diplomatic support. Last, but not least, as the noble Lord has truly told the House, a change would be disastrous in the interests of China itself. In the wilderness of Chinese maladmistration the Chinese Maritime Customs is the one oasis in which is to be found honest and scrupulous administration; and if that department were to be allowed to fall under the influences which prevail in connection with other departments of the Chinese Government, the Chinese themselves would be the greatest losers of all. We have, as we have been told this evening, a very distinct right to insist upon the retention of English management at the head of the Maritime Customs administration so long as our trade continues to be the largest European trade done with China; and I feel quite sure that His Majesty's Government will see that this right is insisted upon and carefully maintained.

TURKEY AND PERSIA.

LORD REAY: My Lords, I rise to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can give any information in regard to the settlement of the frontier dispute between Turkey and Persia near Vazneh and Suj-Bula. I only wish, in putting this Question, to express the hope that my noble friend will be able to inform the House that in these rather delicate negotiations we have, as we had on a recent occasion, the diplomatic support of

Russia, which has also an interest in the settlement of this question. I believe that under the Treaty of Erzerum both Russia and ourselves are arbitrators in any difficulties arising with regard to the demarcation of this frontier.

*LORD FITZMAURICE: My Lords, some additional apprehension was a short time ago rather generally expressed during the currency of the controversy with Turkey, now terminated, with regard to the Sinai Peninsula by those who had observed that, concurrently with those events, there was, apparently, a very disagreeable, and possibly dangerous question between Turkey and Persia with regard to the Eastern frontier of Turkey, and that there was a tendency on the part of Turkey to take the law into her own hands. I am glad to be able, in regard to this question, which is not one of such burning interest to us as was the question of the Sinai Peninsula, but is, nevertheless, a question of very considerable importance, to make, on the whole, a favourable and reassuring statement.

The facts are these. A dispute has arisen between Persia and Turkey in regard to the boundary in the neighbourhood of the places mentioned by my noble friend in the Kurd districts on the borders of those two countries. Negotiations are now proceeding, and there is every reason to believe that an amicable settlement of the question will be arrived at. We understand that the question will now be decided locally between the two Governments, and we have received information that a Persian Commissioner has left to meet the Turkish Commissioner on the frontier. This, evidently, is the most desirable solution. The question has been treated at Constantinople, and the Persian Ambassador there has had the benefit of receiving advice from the British and Russian Ambassadors in regard to the matter.

In 1851 Lord Palmerston proposed that the general line of frontier between Turkey and Persia should be traced by the agents of those two Powers at Constantinople, assisted by Commissioners, in conformity with the stipulations of the Treaty of Erzerum of 1847–48, leaving doubtful localities to be settled in detail in the future. The Russian Government agreed to this proposal, and the work of surveying the country from Mount Ararat to the Persian Gulf was then commenced. When this was done, the preparation of a map of the Turco-Persian frontier, embracing territory 700 miles in length by from 20 to 40 miles broad, was put in hand. This work lasted from November, 1857, to March, 1865, and will doubtless be the basis of the present settlement.

House adjourned at five minutes before Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 28th May, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords]; Crediton Gas Bill [Lords]; Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords]; London and North Western Railway Bill [Lords]; Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6 Bill);

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow.

Derby Gas Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Pontefract Corporation Bill (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed.

Rochester, Chatham, and Strood Gas Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Lancashire Electric Power Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords] [not amended]. Considered; to be read the third time.

Metropolitan Water Board Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Glamorgan and South Wales Water Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords]; Havana United Railways and Regla Warehouses Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

St. Pancras Electricity Bill (by order), as amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5). Read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill; Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill. As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed.

Electric Power and Supply Bills. Ordered, That the Memorandum of the Commissioners of Works on Electric Power and Supply Bills [Command Paper, 2930], be referred to the Committee on the Hackney Electricity Bill.—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; Great Eastern Railway Bill, without Amendment.

Amendments to—Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill [Lords]; Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society Bill [Lords]; Milford Docks Bill [Lords]; Mirfield Gas Bill [Lords]; without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the county borough of Newport with regard to the health, improvement, and good government of the borough; and for other purposes." [Newport Corporation Bill [Lords.]

Newport Corporation Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

EAST INDIA AND CHINA (OPIUM TRAFFIC).

Petition from Penarth, for suppression; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; from Wandsworth, and Gayton; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Aldwincle; Firle; Mundham and

Hunston; North Mundham and Hunston; Scissett; Soho; and, South Kensington; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petition from Brighton, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.

Petition from Lambeth, against; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Bridport, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Regulations for Secondary Schools (from 1st August, 1906 to 31st July, 1907) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNTS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1898.

Copy presented, of Return showing the Total Payments into and out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account for the financial year, 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3,600 to 3,604 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 651 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIES (COLONIAL ACTS, ROYAL ASSENT).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 28th March; *Colonel Legge*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 184.]

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copies presented, of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Hyde and Merthyr Tydvil and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department fixing the Hours of Closing for Barbers' Shops within the Boroughs [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

DUBLIN METOPOLITAN POLICE.

Copy presented, of Statistical Tables for the year 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

WARLIKE OPERATIONS (EAST INDIA).

Address for "Return of the number of sailors and soldiers killed or wounded in war or warlike operations carried on by the Government of India during the years 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1903, respectively, in the same form as the Return granted in Session 1895."—(*Mr. Morton.*)

PENSIONS AND SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES.

Return ordered, "showing the number of Persons in receipt of Pensions or Superanuation Allowances granted by the under-mentioned Local Authorities in England and Wales and the amounts expended by the Local Authorities in the payment of such Pensions and Superannuation Allowances during the year ended the 31st March, 1906, viz.: County Councils, Town Councils, Visiting Committees of Lunatic Asylums, the Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police, Metropolitan Borough Councils, the Corporation of the City of London, Boards of Guardians, Managers of Sick Asylum and School Districts, the Managers of the Metropolitan Asylum District, and the Metropolitan Water Board."—(*Mr. Barnes.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Untenanted Land on the Clanmorris Estate.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.) To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that there is a tract of grazing land on the Clanmorris estate, in the Ballinrobe Union, county Mayo, which is suitable for tillage purposes, still in the hands of the Estates Commissioners and undivided; that over 100 young men and women emigrated this year from the district immediately surrounding this grazing ranch, many of whom could be accommodated thereon; and, if so, whether he will take steps to have this part of the estate broken up into suitable sized holdings, and thereby complete the good work done by the transfer of the rest of the estate from the landlord to the tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have purchased 140 acres of untenanted land on the estate of Lord Clanmorris. An action at the suit of Lord Clanmorris and others has been instituted in the Chancery Division with the object of compelling the Commissioners to sell the lands in question to Messrs. Good and Black, and until this action has been decided it is not possible for the Commissioners to arrange for the distribution of the lands.

Irish Land Act—Mill Holdings.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is his intention to introduce a Bill to amend the Land Act of 1903 in the present or next Session; if so, whether he will insert a clause therein dealing with what is known in Ireland as mill holdings, the occupiers of which are at present debarred from going into the Land Courts, with a view to enable this class to derive some benefits from Land Acts passed since the milling industry got crippled by foreign competition; and whether he will at the same time insert a further clause dealing with farmers who hold one hundred year leases with the same object in view.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Government are carefully watching the operation of the Land Acts, but I cannot, at present, make any statement as to possible further legislation.

Income-tax Assessments in Great Britain and Ireland.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will state the total amounts of the assessments for Income-tax in Ireland and Great Britain, respectively; whether he will state their relative percentage to the joint total; and whether these percentages were recommended by the Royal Commission on Financial Relations as a means of ascertaining the taxable capacity of the Two Kingdoms; and, if so, what action he proposes to take.

MR. O'MARA: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will state the total amounts of assessment for death duties for the ten years 1896 to 1906 for Ireland and Great Britain, respectively, and their relative percentages of the joint total; whether these percentages were recommended by the Royal Commission on Financial Relations of the Two Kingdoms as a means of ascertaining their relative taxable capacity; and, if so, what steps he proposes to take.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The undermentioned are the total amounts of the assessments for Income-tax in Ireland and Great Britain, respectively, for the year 1903–4, the latest year for which the statistics are complete:—

	Gross Income brought under the review of the Inland Revenue Department.		Income on which Tax was received.	
	Total Amount.	Relative Percentages to the Joint Total.	Total Amount.	Relative Percentages to the Joint Total.
	£		£	
Ireland - - -	35,093,000	3·9	19,552,000	3·2
Great Britain - - -	867,666,000	96·1	595,460,000	96·8
Joint Total - -	902,759,000	100	615,012,000	100

The net capital values of estates liable to estate duty for the years 1896–97 to 1904–5 for Ireland and Great Britain, respectively, and the relative percentage of the joint totals are as shown below. The statistics for the year 1905–6 are not yet complete.

Net Capital Values of Estates and Percentages of the Joint Totals.

Years.	Ireland.		Great Britain.		Joint Totals.	
	Amounts.	Percentages.	Amounts.	Percentages.	Amounts.	Percentages.
	£		£		£	
1896–97	11,628,000	5·4	204,224,000	94·6	215,852,000	100
1897–98	11,664,000	4·7	235,678,000	95·3	247,342,000	100
1898–99	12,886,000	5·1	237,733,000	9·49	250,619,000	100
1899–00	12,842,000	4·4	279,973,000	95·6	292,815,000	100
1900–01	14,147,000	5·3	250,367,000	94·7	264,514,000	100
1901–02	12,561,000	4·3	276,309,000	95·7	288,870,000	100
1902–03	11,093,000	4·1	259,380,000	95·9	270,473,000	100
1903–04	12,897,000	4·9	251,221,000	95·1	264,118,000	100
1904–05	12,252,000	4·6	252,851,000	95·4	255,103,000	100

The general Report signed by eleven of the thirteen members of the Financial Relations Commission contained no recommendation as to the most suitable means of estimating the relative taxable capacity of Great Britain and Ireland. But in separate Reports, signed by groups of members, the income-tax assessment, the assessments to the death duties, and other bases of comparison were discussed. As I stated in the discussion on the Budget Resolutions, the whole matter is receiving my consideration.

Osborne Cadetships.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will state how many applicants there were for nominations to cadetships at Osborne in 1905; how many appeared before the selection board; how many passed the selection board; how many passed their medical examination; how many took part in the qualifying examination; and how many passed the qualifying examination.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson*). 548 boys applied for the cadetships vacant in 1905, and were all interviewed by the Interview Committee which sat in February, June, or November of that year. 275 were afterwards nominated for the qualifying examination, subject to passing a medical examination. 240 passed the medical examination, and of these 212 passed the qualifying examination and entered the college at Osborne.

Workmen's Compensation—Deaf and Dumb Workmen.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received a petition representing the adult deaf and dumb of the United Kingdom, praying that a clause be inserted into the Workmen's Compensation Bill to safeguard their interest; and what action, if any, does he intend to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I have received one or two communications of the nature referred to by the hon. Member, and I should be glad if anything could be done to prevent the Workmen's Compensation Act increasing the difficulties which must in any case be experienced by the deaf and dumb in obtaining and keeping employment. The matter is one which will in due course be considered by the Committee to which the Bill is referred.

Child Labour on Sundays.

MR. H. J. TENNANT (Berwickshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what number of proposed by-laws under the Employment of Children Act submitted for his sanction have contained provisions for the prohibition of child labour on Sundays; and whether he would view with favour a universal prohibition of this nature.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I am not able, at such short notice, to give the hon. Member the information asked for in the first part of the Question, which would involve some search; but so far as regards by-laws confirmed and now in force the figures are as follows:—In thirteen cases by-laws have been confirmed prohibiting employment on Sunday in industrial work at home; in one of these cases also employment on Sunday in certain specified occupations is limited to two hours; and in thirty cases street trading on Sunday has been prohibited. Several proposals from other authorities with regard to Sunday employment are now under my consideration. As regards the second part of the Question, I shall give careful consideration to any proposals from local authorities for restricting as much as possible the employment of children on Sundays, but I am not prepared to say that a universal and complete prohibition of such employment would be warranted.

Sale of Disused Warships to Foreign Countries.

MR. BARKER (Penryn and Falmouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether facilities are given to enable foreign countries to acquire disused and obsolete ships of war which are offered for sale by auction; and, if so, whether the First Lord of the Admiralty will take steps to prevent such warships being acquired by foreign countries.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) Facilities are not specially given to enable foreign countries to acquire obsolete ships of war offered for sale by auction. Such ships are usually offered at public auction at His Majesty's dockyards, and except in the case of those of fighting value, are sold without restriction of any kind.

Construction of Boat Slip at Cooscroum.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board will now consider the advisability of giving the fishermen of Cooscroum, near Cahirciveen, facilities for launching and hauling up their boats; can he say when steps will be taken to make the slip at Roads of real use to the fishermen; and when the end of the Boat Cove slip will be completed.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Congested Districts Board have postponed work at Cooscroum landing place as in their opinion other localities have stronger claims on their funds. The Board have already expended £1,015 upon the landing place at Roads, but they are advised that no reasonable expenditure would render such an exposed landing place safe at all times. Their engineer has been instructed to report as to the removal of a ledge of rock, but no other improvements are contemplated. The small addition proposed to be made to the slip at Glen Boat Cove will be carried out as soon as the services of a diver are available in the district.

Irish National School Teachers.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of teachers whose salaries were withdrawn during the years 1897 to 1905, respectively; whether teachers of thirty years service have, since the change of rules, been declared inefficient and dismissed without compensation or pension; and whether steps will be taken to have the whole scheme of rules and programme and treatment of teachers of the national board thoroughly inquired into.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that during the nine years ended

December 31st, 1905, salary was withdrawn from 260 teachers because of long continued inefficiency or neglect of duty. In the case of any such teacher who had thirty years service, consideration was always given to that fact, and wherever it was possible with due regard to the educational interests of the pupils to suspend final action teachers were permitted to continue their service until they became eligible for pension under the Teachers' Pension Act. The powers of the Lord-Lieutenant in respect of the Commissioners' rules arise only in cases in which the Commissioners seek to change any fundamental rule.

Sale of the Holding of Patrick M'Glone of Aghanlish.

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the case of the holding of Patrick M'Glone of Aghanlish, Largydonnell, county Leitrim, the Estates Commissioners have used their powers under Section 19 of The land Act, 1903, to compel the tenant to sell for £193; that this price is thirty-one and a half years purchase of the rent fixed by the county court judge; and what steps does he propose to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that the case in question is under their consideration, and they are not prepared to make any statement upon it until they have arrived at a decision as to what action they may take.

Enlargement of Uneconomic Holdings on the Dickson Estate at Tawley.

MR. DOLAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Justice Ross acting as Land Judge has recently sold a grazing farm on the Dickson estate at Tawley, situate between Tullaghan and Kinlough in the county of Leitrim, to Mrs Dickson, who resides at Tullaghan, four miles from the grazing farm; and that adjoining the grazing farm there are twenty-six uneconomic holdings, the average valuation of which is under £3; will he say if the sale to Mrs. Dickson was a judicial act; and whether, seeing that the Congested Districts Board had the estate inspected, and was prepared to purchase it with a view to the enlargement of the uneconomic holdings, anything can now be done to relieve congestion on this estate.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Registrar of the Land Judge's Court that the sale to Mrs. Dickson was approved by the Court in 1904, and that the giving of that approval was a judicial decision which could only be varied by the Court of Appeal. I have no information as to the character of the holdings adjoining the farms referred to. Subsequent to the sale to Mrs. Dickson the Congested Districts Board issued a request to the Land Judge under Section 7 of the Act of 1903, but on being made aware that the sale to Mrs. Dickson had already taken place, and that the majority of the tenants had agreed to purchase direct from the Land Judge, the Board decided not to purchase the residue ef the estate then for sale.

Delay in Erection of Breakwater at New bridge, County Donegal.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the cause of the delay in erecting the breakwater at Newbridge, Rathmullan, county Donegal, and how the matter now stands.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Question seems to imply that the Government have undertaken to carry out works at Newbridge. This is not the case, but the claims of that place to a grant under the Marine Works Act are receiving consideration in conjunction with the claims of other localities. If it should be decided to make a grant in respect of Newbridge the works could hardly be undertaken during the present year.

Appointment of Sergeant Ballantine at Belleek.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Sergeant Ballantine, who has been placed in charge of the constabulary at Belleek in substitution of Sergeant Dolan, busied himself when at Castlecoldwell, a few miles from Belleek, in getting up a testimonial on behalf of a Post Office official and came to Belleek in order to solicit contributions to that testimonial, thereby bringing himself under obligations to the persons who subscribed and suffering rebuffs from those who declined to subscribe; whether it is usual for a constabulary officer to be promoted to the charge of a district with whose inhabitants he came in contact as an organiser of a testimonial and a collector of subscriptions to its funds; and whether he will explain why Ballantine, a Protestant, was appointed to Belleek in substitution of a Catholic sergeant, the practice being for many years that the position of sergeant at this station should be held by a Catholic, and what are the circumstances under which Ballantine was appointed to this station.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector-General informs me that about three years ago Acting Sergeant-Ballantine and other members of the constabulary gave subscriptions to a testimonial which was presented to a Post Office official at Belleek, and to which persons of all religious creeds in the locality subscribed. The acting sergeant, however, took no part in organising or receiving subscriptions, and did not go to Belleek to solicit subscriptions, and is therefore under no obligation to any of the subscribers to the testimonial. Acting Sergeant Ballantine, who is a Protestant, was recently appointed by the County Inspector, with the approval of the Inspector-General, to the charge of Belleek station, of which the former sergeant in charge was a Catholic. The Inspector-General informs me that there is no reason why a Protestant sergeant should not be appointed to the station. There is no sectarian feeling in the locality.

Retirement of Sergeant Dolan at Belleek.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Assistant Inspector Waters, while on a visit to a near relative in the subdistrict of Belleek, county Fermanagh, visited the Belleek Royal Irish Constabulary barracks, and on meeting Sergeant Dolan, the sergeant in charge, asked him whether he was about to resign, and stated that he should resign and peremptorily requested him to do so; what, if any, specific charges did Mr. Waters bring against this sergeant, who has now been superseded; what investigation was held; under whose authority did Mr Waters act; has his visit to Pettigo been made at the public expense; and what explanation, if any, have the Constabulary authorities to offer with reference to this incident.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) In December 1905, Mr. Waters, Assistant Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary, inspected the county Fermanagh force, and in the course of that duty visited Belleek barracks, of which Sergeant Dolan was the sergeant in charge. The Assistant Inspector-General found the barracks in a dirty condition and the sergeant himself very dirty and untidy. As the sergeant had more than completed the service at which he was entitled to retire on pension, Mr. Waters asked him if he intended to retire, and the sergeant replied in the affirmative. Mr. Waters then informed him that unless he did so it would be his duty to recommend that he should be compulsorily retired by the Inspector-General under the provisions of the Constabulary Act of 1883, as he considered the sergeant unfitted to continue in charge of a station. No further investigation was held. The sergeant subsequently applied to be retired and was discharged on pension on the 28th February. He had completed twenty-nine years service. Mr. Waters acted under the authority of his office and with the sanction of the Inspector-General. As Mr. Waters was on public duty inspecting the force his expenses were paid out of public funds. He, however, stayed one night with a relative near Belleek.

Complaint of Assault Against Constable Brady at Pettigo.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a complaint was preferred against Constable Brady, stationed at Pettigo, for assaulting a young lady by pushing her rudely and deliberately off the footpath in the presence of two other ladies, who are prepared to corroborate her statement of the assault; whether in consequence of this complaint, Mr. Kingston, D. I. Inspector at Kesh, came to Pettigo, for the purpose of holding an inquiry, that he never, when at Pettigo, saw the young lady, the victim of the assault, or any of the witnesses to it who were in the town, and prepared to answer any inquiries he might make, but left Pettigo after a visit to the constabulary barrack, the dispensary, and the hotel, and that subsequently a communication was received from the inspector general that the complaint, after a very careful inquiry, was regarded as frivolous; what, if any, explanation is there for Mr. Kingston's conduct in not making any inquiries with reference to an occurrence he was directed to investigate from the young lady who complained of the assault, or from the ladies who were prepared to corroborate her statement; and whether any, or, if so, what steps will be taken for the further investigation of this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector General informs me that on 13th September 1905 a complaint to the effect mentioned was received. The complainant stated that his letter was written in strict confidence. The complainant did not give the names of the young ladies in question. The District Inspector was directed to inquire into the matter, but, in accordance with the complainant's request for confidence, no names were given to that officer. The District Inspector made all possible inquiries, and reported the result, which was that no grounds for action against the constable could be discovered. Subsequently the complainant and the lady herself renewed the complaint, but without any stipulation as to confidence, and the County Inspector was thereupon directed to investigate the complaint. This he did, and, in company with the District Inspector, interviewed the three young ladies referred to and other persons, and found that there was no ground for the complaint. The complainant was in the first instance informed by the Inspector General that the proper course would be for the person aggrieved to prosecute the constable, when the matter could be fully investigated on oath. It is not intended to further investigate the case.

Alleged Drunkenness of Constable Brady at Pettigo.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, on 5th April, an inquiry into a charge of drunkenness on the night of the declaration of the poll at the Fermanagh election against Constable Brady, stationed at Pettigo, preferred by the Rev. Eugene Coyle, Catholic Curate of Pettigo, was held at the Pettigo Police Barracks by District Inspectors Wall and Wallace, while Mr. Kingston, District Inspector, undertook the prosecution, which resulted in the report of the inspectors holding the investigation that the charge was without foundation; whether he is aware, at the preliminary examination held on 21st February, that four witnesses, Messrs. Thomas Aikins, Alexander Aikins, Henry Aikins, J.P., and Samuel Hawkins, corroborated the charge of Father Coyle that Constable Brady was drunk, whereas at the second inquiry three of these witnesses deposed to his sobriety, while a fourth, Alexander Aikin, rushed out of court, before being sworn, declaring that Father Coyle was an informer and ought to be shot, and that District Inspector Kingston's questions to the sergeant at Pettigo as to whether he had but to reprimand Constable Brady for tippling was not allowed to be answered by the court, and no question was put or explanation required with reference to the contradictory statements of the witnesses in their evidence at the first and the second inquiries; and whether, having regard to the character of this investigation, a full and impartial inquiry will be directed into the whole matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector General informs me that a complaint to the effect mentioned was made by the Reverend Mr. Coyle that a constabulary court of inquiry on oath was held in the matter, and that the constable was acquitted of the charge. I cannot enter into the further details of the Question, particularly as I understand that there is a possibility that the matter will form the subject of judicial proceedings at the instance of one of the parties.

Artillery Practice in the Thames Estuary—Danger to Public.

Mr. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the fact that George Gilson, of Leigh-on-Sea, whilst shrimping in the estuary of the Thames on 27th April 1905, was wounded by, and subsequently died from, a bullet discharged in the course of target practice by the Royal Garrison Artillery at Sheerness; and whether any, and what, steps have been taken to prevent similar occurrences; if any new regulations have been issued since April 1905 for that purpose, what were the date and nature of the new regulations.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The circumstances attending the death of George Gilson were thoroughly inquired into at the time. As a result orders were at once issued directing increased precautions, and new and more stringent regulations for safety were promulgated by the Army Council on the 2nd August 1905. These were again revised this year and fresh instructions issued on the 15th May last.

MR. WHITEHEAD: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that earlier in the present month, and also on 14th May last, when heavy firing has been proceeding at Sheerness, shots have fallen in the Thames estuary, about two miles below the "Knock" buoy, in the track of sailing vessels and yachts; and whether he has taken or will immediately take steps to protect the public using the river from all risk whatever of this kind, and to ask what steps he has taken or proposes to take.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The General Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Command, has been requested to report on the matter in question.

Water Supply for Buttevant Barracks.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N. E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the Mallow Rural District Council made a proposal last year to provide an adequate supply of water to the military barracks at Buttevant; and that correspondence respecting the proposed scheme has been going on for many months between the military authorities in Ireland and the local council; and if he will inquire into the cause of delay in concluding the negotiations.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I am aware that the proposals of the Mallow Rural District Council have been for some time under consideration. I am glad to say that within the last few days almost all the matters under negotiation have been adjusted, and a definite agreement will be arrived at at a very early date.

War Office Flag and Empire Day.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that on Empire Day, 24th May last, the Union Jack was not hoisted on the War Office flagstaff; and will he give instructions to have it hoisted thereon on future Empire Days.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) May 24th is not one of the days on which a flag is ordered to be flown on the War Office building.

The Letter Patent Appointing Judge Advocate General.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): To ask the Secretary of State for War when he proposes to lay upon the Table a copy of the letters patent appointing Mr. Milvain Judge Advocate General for life.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) A copy was laid on the Table on Friday last.

Abandonment of the Duncannon Rifle Range.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, and on what grounds, it has been decided to abandon the Duncannon rifle range in view of the importance attached, now more than ever, to increased facilities for rifle practice in the Army and Militia.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The lease for this range expired in January last, and as the range was only a makeshift and very little used in recent years, it was decided to spend the money provided for the rent on the improvement of more suitable ranges.

Manufacture of Lee-Enfield Carbines.

MR. BRANCH (Middlesex, Enfield): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state what number of Lee-Enfield cavalry and artillery carbines were manufactured by the trade for the years 1890 to 1903 inclusive, and the price per carbine for each respective year; also the numbers and prices of the same arms for the above years made at Sparkbrook and Enfield respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) No Lee-Enfield carbines have been manufactured by the trade in the years mentioned or at any other time. No Lee-Enfield carbines have been made at Sparkbrook. The following Lee-Enfield carbines were made at Enfield :—

1889–90 to 1891–2 . . . . None.

Year.	Number.	Cost.		
		£	s.	d.
1892–93	100	5	6	6¼
1893–94	50	4	15	6¼
1894–95	11,256	3	3	11
1895–96	5,515	3	1	2¼
1896–97	6,848	2	10	7½
1897–98	1,504	2	6	10¼
1898–99	5,450	2	6	3¼
1899–1900	6,149	2	6	1¾
1900–01	21,594	2	4	5
1901–02	19	2	4	5¼
1902–03	500	2	5	10¼

Fitted for pattern 1888 sword-bayonets :—

Year.	Number.	Cost.		
		£	s.	d.
1901–02	1,000	2	4	11½
1903–04	500	2	9	9

This price includes the special expenditure for tools.

British Japanese Trade in Manchuria.

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton) : To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the Japanese are actively doing business in Harbin, Moukden, and other towns in Manchuria, although merchants other than those of Japanese nationality are not permitted to go there for business purposes ; and whether he will take prompt steps to secure to British traders equal rights with the Japanese.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) His Majesty's Government were informed on inquiry at the close of last year that only Japanese commercial people, who were practically in the employ of the naval and military authorities, were allowed to travel on business in Manchuria, and that only in connection with the Army and Navy. The evacuation by the Japanese troops having made much progress, the Japanese Government announced some time ago that from the

1st of May this year, foreigners and foreign vessels should be free to enter Antung and Tatungkau, and that from the 1st of June Mukden and the whole of Manchuria in the occupation of Japan, outside the leased territory, was to be open to trade and residence to Japanese and foreigners alike, so far as military exigencies permitted. There is, therefore, no need of representations to the Japanese Government on the subject. We have no information as to the position of affairs at Harbin, which is still in Russian occupation.

Increase of Likin Duty at Moukden.

MR. F. E. SMITH: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs under what authority the Likin Duty at Moukden upon goods has been increased from one to five per cent; and whether His Majesty's Government has assented to the increase?

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The hon. Member no doubt refers to the tax on the sale of cigarettes, amounting to about five per cent., which retail dealers in tobacco have to pay. It was imposed by the Chinese Administration at Mukden. Likin is an eternal tax to which the assent of His Majesty's Government is not required, and with regard to which they cannot intervene unless there is any discrimination against British goods.

Exports from British Honduras.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the total value of the exports in 1904 and 1905 from Stann Creek and Punta Gorda, respectively, in British Honduras; and what is the value of the exports of bananas from these places, respectively, in the same years?

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Officer Administering the Government of British Honduras has been requested to furnish the information which the hon. Member desires.

Closing of South African Gold Mines.

MR. BELLOC (Salford, S.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the threat of Mr. Albu of closing certain gold mines in the Transvaal as a means of coercing the Government; and whether, in case of such a threat being carried into effect, the Government proposes to exercise its right to take over the mines?

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I have seen a newspaper report of a speech by Mr. Albu, in which he said that certain gold mines might have to be closed down if a large number of Chinamen applied for repatriation. With regard to the right of Government to take over the mines I do not think that Government has any such power for the following reasons:—Article 140 of the Gold Law, passed by the legislature of the late South African Republic with a view to war, and printed at page 58 of Cd. 43, to which I presume the hon. Member refers, has not been repealed. The power to compel a mineowner to work his mine could not be enforced, as I am advised, without further legislation, which is not contemplated. In any case the only mines which the Transvaal Government could in any circumstances work without a heavy loss, would be the richest mines and those which are fully developed. There seems to be very little likelihood of such mines becoming derelict at a period when the gold output is greater than has ever before been known.

Bovine Tuberculosis.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the Royal Commission on Bovine Tuberculosis, now making experiments at Stanstead, intend to investigate and report on Dr. Koch's dictum that bovine tuberculosis is not transmissible to the human species; and whether, pending this Report he will cause a modification of the criminal prosecutions now taken against meat traders, especially those who deal in ports in London?

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) Professor Koch's dictum was, as I understand, the main reason for the appointment of the Royal Commission who are investigating the subject, and will no doubt report upon it. I have no authority to give effect to the suggestion in the latter part of the Question.

Damage to Crops by Dust from Motor Traffic.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to a resolution adopted by the Barnstaple Rural District Council, at a meeting held on 18th May, 1906, to the effect that agricultural crops are being damaged by the dust caused by motor vehicles, and that the clouds of dust are making the use of the highways dangerous to ordinary traffic; and what steps he proposes to take with regard to the matter?

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) My attention has been drawn to this resolution, and I have communicated it, with others of a similar kind, to the Royal Commission on Motor Cars, who have under consideration the subject to which it relates.

Irish Local Bodies and Patents for Fairs.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any petition from the urban council of Ballina, county Mayo, for the grant of a patent to enable the council to hold monthly fairs, has been presented to His Majesty; whether he is aware that such petitions, if from Ireland, are referred to the Irish Government and law officers; whether he will take steps, through the Local Government Board for Ireland or otherwise, to communicate to Irish local bodies the procedure to be followed in applying for patents for fairs, the nature of the evidence that should be adduced, and contents or form of the petitions; and will he say whether any rules or directions on the subject have ever been made.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The petition in Question has been received, and is under the consideration of the Lord-Lieutenant, who in practice deals with all applications to the Crown for the grant of patents for fairs or markets in Ireland. There does not appear to be any necessity to communicate with Irish local bodies as suggested. If a local body or an individual owner desires to establish a fair or market, all needful information is given on application to the Under-Secretary, Dublin Castle. If an application is, *prima facie*, one that can be granted His Majesty's Writ of *Ad Quod Damnum* issues to the high sheriff of the county, who summons a jury to determine whether the granting of the fair or market would be of any damage to His Majesty or any of His subjects who hold fairs or markets near the place proposed for the grant. Beyond this no rules on the subject have been made.

Education Bill—Position of School Inspectors at present in Wales.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether, in the event of Part IV. of the Education (England and Wales) Bill becoming law, and a council for Wales being established, he will state the position of the present inspectors of His Majesty's schools in Wales; will they be transferred to the Welsh council or will the council on the passing of the Act be empowered to appoint their own inspectors and officials.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Under the clause as now in the Bill the Welsh council will certainly have power to appoint inspectors and officials of its own. I cannot undertake to discuss the details of the Bill in a reply to a Question. There will be an opportunity for discussing the point during the Committee stage of the Bill.

Pay of Post Office—Adult Night Messengers.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): To ask the Postmaster-General, if his attention has been called to the fact that the subordinate employees engaged in His Majesty's Customs, Board of Works, and several departments of the War Office have had their weekly rate of wages increased recently; and will he now state his decision as to the several points raised on behalf of the adult night messengers by the deputation which he received from the Trades Union

Congress on February 23rd last, especially with regard to the present weekly rate of wages, which only averages 18s.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN: To ask the Postmaster-General, if he is aware that the increased rate of pay for adult night messengers, under the memorandum issued by Lord Stanley, was to apply to all messengers performing a full night's duty at offices from first to fourth class inclusive, and as Aberdeen and Dundee offices come under this ruling, will he issue instructions that the adult night messengers employed at these offices be paid as from 1st April, 1905, at the same rate as the adult night messengers at Glasgow and Edinburgh.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will answer the hon. Member's two Questions together. The duties of adult night messengers are merely those which are performed in the daytime by boy messengers. The memorandum, issued by Lord Stanley in the Post Office Circular of 28th March, 1905, stated that unestablished night telegraph messengers employed full time in provincial towns would be paid the minimum of the scale of pay for established postmen in those towns. At Aberdeen and Dundee town postmen are on a scale beginning at 1s. less than at Glasgow and Edinburgh, and consequently the night messengers are paid wages of 1s. less per week. The duties of the class of men in the Customs service to which the hon. Member refers are far more responsible than those of the night messengers. They are not established officers, and consequently do not earn a pension. But in any case I cannot deal with the question of the remuneration of these officers until the Select Committee on Post Office servants have made their Report, and I have had time to consider their recommendations.

Post Office Servants Committee and Assistant Clerks.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): To ask the Postmaster-General why the 200 assistant clerks (new class) employed in the various departments of the Post Office are excluded from the inquiry which is now being held in regard to Post Office servants' wages.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The class in question is one common to the whole Civil Service, and has been, I presume, on that ground excluded from the inquiry in regard to Post Office servants.

Transfer of Post Office Engineering Department from Belfast to Dublin.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Postmaster-General whether it is proposed to abolish the Irish Northern Engineering District, having its present headquarters at Belfast, and to remove the superintending engineer at that city and his staff to Dublin; if so, whether he will state the reason for the change, and will the Belfast staff be compensated for such enforced removal and for the increased cost of living in Dublin; will he say whether the major portion of the telegraph and telephone work in Ireland is carried on in the northern district; and, if so, will he reconsider any decision to abolish the Belfast headquarters, especially in view of the increase of telephone business which will be thrown on that district when the National Telephone Company's undertaking is absorbed in 1911.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) It is proposed to transfer the superintending engineer and his headquarters staff from Belfast to Dublin with the object of improving the administration generally. The officers will receive the same rates of pay as other officers stationed in Dublin, and their removal expenses will be paid in accordance with the usual scale. Dublin is the most important centre in Ireland for both telegraph and telephone work.

Irish Post Office Engineering Department.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Postmaster-General, if he can state the expenditure on engineering works in the Irish northern, midland, and southern districts, respectively, during the twelve months ended 31st December last; and also the total salaries of the superintending engineers' clerical staffs in each of these districts for the same period.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The figures are as follows:—

	Northern.	Midland.	Southern.
	£	£	£
Expenditure	22,860	17,020	18,570
Salaries	1,578	1,787	1,421

Electricity Supply.

Mr. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will enlarge the terms of the order of reference on the London County Council (Bulk Electricity) Bill, now before a Select Committee, so as to admit evidence and report upon the question of the cheapest and best method of generating electricity in bulk so as to create a general demand for its use for lighting, heating, and power purposes, and also the practicability of establishing a central authority for large areas to deal with such supply on the lines of the Metropolitan Water Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Committee have been considering the Bill for twelve days, and it is too late now for me to suggest any alteration of the terms of the reference, even if I thought that these terms were not sufficiently wide. I have no reason for thinking that the Committee would be precluded from considering the points mentioned by the hon. Member.

Judicial and Executive Powers of Indian Magistrates.

Sir H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to two recent cases in Eastern Bengal, viz., at Seragigunge and Burisal, in which complaints, filed in the ordinary course in the court of the deputy magistrate duly authorised to receive such complaints, preferring charges of assault against the local police, were refused by the deputy magistrate on the ground that he had been instructed to refer such complaints to the district magistrate, who is the official head of the local police, and, when so referred, were summarily dismissed by the district magistrate; and whether, having regard to the important principle raised in these cases, involving the exercise of judicial and executive powers in the hands of the same officer, as well as interference in the independent administration of justice by subordinate magistrates, he will take these cases into his consideration in finally dealing with the long pending memorial of Lord Hobhouse and others praying for the separation of judicial and executive functions in India.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I am not acquainted with the details of these cases, but I have no doubt that they and any similar cases will be communicated to me by the Government of India when they submit to me their conclusions on the memorial referred to.

Mr. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in dealing with a memorial, signed in 1899 by Lord Hobhouse, Sir W. Wedderburn, and others, praying for the separation of judicial and executive functions in India, he will take into account, not only the opinions of other authorities upon this subject, but also the extra cost which would be entailed by the creation of a magistracy engaged exclusively in magisterial functions, which cost would have to be borne by the masses of the taxpayers, of whose dissatisfaction with the existing and traditional Indian system of joint revenue and magisterial functions no proof exists.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The considerations mentioned by my hon. friend will undoubtedly receive due weight in any deliberations that may take place on the subject.

Protection of Lough Neagh Fisheries.

Colonel McCALMONT (Antrim, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Fisheries Department of the Board of

Agriculture (Ireland) offered in March last £100 towards the protection of Lough Neagh fisheries on condition that before receiving the grant the conservators should say how they proposed to expend it; and, if so, will he explain why, after the Department had been furnished with a comprehensive and useful scheme, the grant was refused.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) In the year 1904 a grant of £100 was made by the Department of Agriculture to the Coleraine Board of Conservators, and was expended on the protection of spawning fish during the winter of 1904–5. An application for a further grant was made in August, 1905; but, as certain objections with regard to the matter reached the Department, it was found desirable to make investigation into the financial position and administrative actions of the conservators. No decision could be reached until 3rd January, 1906, when the conservators were informed that the grant of £100 would be made on the same conditions as in the previous year. It was, however, then too late to apply the grant to the protection of spawning fish, and consequently no payment has been made in respect of it. Should a further application be received in connection with protection during the next spawning season, it will receive consideration.

Reinstatement of Evicted Tenants on their Original Holdings.

MR. T. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the Government intend introducing a Bill for the reinstatement of the evicted tenants in Ireland on the holdings they formerly occupied, or else to provide holdings for them elsewhere.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) Provision to the effect mentioned is made by the Irish Land Act, 1903; and, as I have already announced, a staff of inspectors has been appointed to inquire into the cases of evicted tenants who have applied for reinstatement.

Police and the Hotel Munster, Thurles.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state whether District Inspector O'Brien Thurles has issued any special instructions to the constables under his charge with regard to espionage and raids on the Hotel Munster, Thurles: was a licensing prosecution instituted at any time against the proprietor, Mr. P. M'Bride; and, if so, with what result.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector-General informs me that he has ascertained from District Inspector O'Brien that that officer has not issued any special instructions to the police under his charge in reference to the hotel mentioned. A prosecution for a breach of the licensing laws was instituted against the proprietor of the hotel by the district inspector on 21st October, 1905. That case was dismissed by the magistrates, but the chairman remarked that it was a very proper case for investigation.

Police Duty at Cappawhite on 29th April, 1906.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state on what constabulary duty the Cappawhite transport car was engaged on 29th April, 1906; who was in charge of Cappawhite police barrack on that day; and was the transport car used by the head constable to attend a funeral.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector-General informs me that on the date referred to the transport car was employed by the head constable on the duty of supervising patrols. In the head constable's absence Cappawhite station was in charge of Sergeant Delinege. The car was not used by the head constable to attend a funeral.

Sale of the Lamphiere Estate—Extra Police Employed.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether in connection with the controversy over the sale of the Lamphiere estate he will say how many extra police are at present stationed at the Commons and Sallypark police barracks and the protection post at Martin Cormack's; are there any police employed protecting Mrs. Lamphiere; and, having regard to the unsettled condition of the district, will the Government consider the advisability of holding a public inquiry into all the circumstances connected with the sale of this estate.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector-General informs me that seven extra police are stationed at the barracks and protection post named for the purpose of affording protection to Martin Cormack and his brother, James Cormack. The necessity for this protection arises out of the fact that these men are unpopular: James Cormack because he bought an evicted farm on the Lamphiere estate and Martin Cormack because he acts as caretaker for his brother. Mrs. Lamphiere does not receive protection, but a patrol is sent along the road on Sundays to prevent any interference with this lady when she is driving to or from church. It is not considered necessary to hold an inquiry in the case.

Application of T. Murphy for Untenanted Farm at Coolalta.

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received particulars of the claim of the representative of Timothy Murphy, of Coolalta, Macroom, to an untenanted farm on the townlands of Cappanagroove and Carrigadrohid, near Macroom, on the Bowen-Colthurst estate; are negotiations proceeding at present for the sale of this estate; and what steps, if any, are being taken to include Timothy Murphy's claim in the purchase proceedings.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from the representatives of Timothy Murphy, and have referred it to an inspector for inquiry. An originating application has been lodged in respect of the sale of the estate of Georgina Bowen Colthurst, but the townlands mentioned are not included in the sale nor do they appear among the other lands which the vendor owns but does not desire to sell.

Application of James Morris for Reinstatement.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from Samuel Maxwell, Attanagh, Queen's County, the representative of James Morris, who was evicted from a holding of eighty acres on the estate of Lord De Vesci in 1885; and whether he can say what steps, if any, have been taken to restore this tenant to the old holding, or provide him with another farm.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received the application in question, and have referred it to one of their inspectors for inquiry.

Purchase of Lord De Vesci Estate.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether the Estates Commissioners have approached Lord De Vesci, Abbeyleix, in connection with the sale to them of the 400 acres of untenanted land on his estate; and, if so, with what result.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have approached the owner in this case and that the matter is under consideration.

Arrests of Young Girls for Minor Offences, Ireland.

COLONEL MCCALMONT: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he could give the number of young girls, other than Roman Catholics, between the ages of nine and fifteen years, who have been arrested for thieving and other minor offences and sent to prison or discharged under the First Offenders Act during the year 1905, in Ireland; and whether, in the event of a reformatory for such girls being set up by private enterprise, the Government would afford facilities and some pecuniary encouragement.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that only one such person was committed to prison in Ireland during the year 1905, and that the average number of such committals for some years past has been about two. The prison records do not show the number of such girls who, after being arrested, have been discharged under the First Offenders Act without being sent to prison. The Government have not been made aware that any necessity exists for establishing a reformatory school for Protestant girls in Ireland. If, however, any proposals on the subject are made they will receive due consideration. I understand that one such school existed in Ireland up to ten years ago, when it was closed owing to the fewness of the inmates.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Construction—Cost of "County" Class Cruisers.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will state the cost to the country of building and completing for sea the ten cruisers of the "County" class, and the cost of the annual upkeep; also the nature of the contemplated change in their armament and the cost involved; and further, having regard to the recent reduction of the Navy Estimates by several millions sterling, how long the work of rendering these armoured cruisers efficient is likely to be delayed, on the ground of the cost involved.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The total cost of building and completing for sea the ten cruisers of the "Kent" class was £7,550,496. The cost of the annual upkeep is about £17,000 for each ship for coal and sea stores, while it is estimated that the average annual cost of repairs for ships of this class, for the first eight years, will be about £5,000 to £6,000. No change in the armament is in contemplation.

Canadian Office in London.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to charges made in connection with the Canadian Office, Victoria Street; whether Lord Strathcona, High Commissioner for Canada, is the intermediary between the Canadian Government and the Colonial Office for all matters between the two Governments; whether charges implicating Lord Strathcona have been made; and, if so, is it the attention of His Majesty's Government to make representations to the Canadian Government that it will be impossible to have any further dealings with the Canadian Office, Victoria Street, until all charges have been cleared.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Mr. CHURCHILL): Charges made in connection with the Canadian Emigration Office are, I understand, being investigated by a Committee of the House of Commons in Canada. Lord Strathcona has informed the Secretary of State that the so-called charges do not implicate him in any way, either personally or as High Commissioner. The Secretary of State is not prepared to make any representations to the Canadian Government upon the matter.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) inquired whether the position of High Commissioner of Canada was not strictly non-political in this country, and asked if Lord Strathcona had not been one of the principal speakers on tariff reform.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That has nothing whatever to do with the Question.

Chinese Coolies in South Africa—Unexpired Import Licences.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercrombie): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state the total number of unexpired licences for the importation of Chinese coolies into South Africa; and at what date all further importation will have ceased.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Secretary of State has telegraphed to Lord Selborne for the exact facts, but has not yet received a reply. I hope to be able to put the hon. Member and the House in possession of the information on Wednesday, if not before.

Natal Gaols.

MR. BENNETT (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, owing to the crowded state of the Natal gaols, which are filled with political prisoners, 250 long-sentence prisoners have been sent to Kimberley; and, if so, whether these prisoners are to be set to work in the De Beers mines.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Secretary of State has no information in regard to the matter, which is one for which the Government of Natal alone has responsibility.

Flogging of Coolies in British Guiana.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether coolies under indenture in British Guiana are flogged at the triangle with the cat-o'-nine-tails for plantain stealing; whether there are any instances of death having followed as a consequence; and, if so, whether His Majesty's Government will take steps to amend the Ordinance under which immigrants are flogged for predial larceny.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Earl of Elgin's Answer is: Indentured immigrants are subject to the same laws as other inhabitants of British Guiana in regard to the offence in question. Whipping or flogging may be inflicted on conviction before a court of law for predial larceny, if committed with aggravating circumstances or in proclaimed districts. The Secretary of State is not aware of any death resulting from flogging in the colony.

Repatriation of Chinese Coolies.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state how many of the 600 Chinese coolies who left Durban on 24th May on return to China were repatriated under the terms of the Repatriation Notice; and what was the cost to the Treasury of their repatriation.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Secretary of State has no reason to suppose that any of these coolies can have been repatriated under the terms of the new Repatriation Notice.

Australians and Irish Home Rule.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that at a meeting of 3,000 citizens of Sydney, held in the Town Hall on 24th May, a resolution, moved by the leader of the Opposition in the Commonwealth Parliament, was carried, giving the support of the meeting to the petition which is being addressed to His Majesty expressing disapproval of the action of the House of Representatives in passing a Motion in favour of Home Rule for Ireland; and whether, in view of the fact that the Motion of the House of Representatives has been printed as a Parliamentary Paper, he will have this and other resolutions of repudiation issued officially.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Secretary of State cannot undertake to present to Parliament resolutions passed at public meetings in Australia, which are not forwarded to him by the Governor-General

Bombay Garrison Church Parade.

SIR J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the rank and file of the regiment of Royal Scots, now forming part of the garrison at Colaba, in the city of Bombay, are moved on parade for Sabbath morning services according to the forms of the Church of Scotland into the shade of a barrack-room or the open air instead of the garrison church; whether the Bishop of Bombay or other ecclesiastical authority has refused the use of the garrison church for these religious services, and, if so, on what grounds; whether the circumstances have yet been brought to the knowledge of the Government in India, and with what result; whether the land on which the church is built was given by the Government of India; and whether any funds for building it were supplied out of the revenues of India and are yearly paid for repairs and caretakers.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I understand that the Bishop of Bombay at first refused the use of the consecrated church at Colaba for Presbyterian services on the ground that there is a Presbyterian Church available for troops in the Fort at Bombay; but I learn that an arrangement has now been arrived at by which parade services for Scottish troops are held, between May and October inclusive, in the Colaba Church. The Answers to the last three queries are in the affirmative.

British Indian Natives' Incomes.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he is aware that the average income of the native inhabitants of British India does not exceed ¾d. per head per day; and that over a very large area land is impoverished for want of manure, owing to the poverty of the cultivators, who cannot afford to buy stock and have to borrow money at ruinous prices of interest to pay rents and taxes; and what steps, if any, he is taking to reduce the military expenditure so that he may reduce the taxes.

Mr. MORLEY: I am afraid that it would be hopeless for me to attempt in a reply to a Question to deal with the issues involving matters of such enormous controversy raised by the hon. Member. The military expenditure of India is a subject that is receiving my careful attention. Meanwhile I may point out that in three out of the last four Budgets (including the one which will shortly be discussed in this House) important reductions have been made in taxation in India and large sums have recently been devoted to measures for agricultural improvement and instruction.

*Mr. LUPTON asked if the late Governor-General of India had not made a statement on this subject.

Mr. MORLEY: I cannot say.

Chinese Government and the Anhui Mining Contract.

Sir EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will take steps to obtain from the Chinese Government the due fulfilment of the terms of the Anhui Mining Final Contract, signed by the Wai-wa-fu on 5th June, 1904, and thus to obviate the infringement of the provisions of the McKay Treaty of 1902; also is he able to make any communication in regard to the agitation respecting the administration of the Imperial maritime customs that has recently become apparent.

The SECRETARY to the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury, for Sir Edward Grey): His Majesty's Minister at Peking has made repeated representations to the Chinese Government urging that the concession should be recognised as still valid, and he telegraphed on April 23rd that he was pressing for an official reply in writing. A despatch which is now on the way from Peking is being awaited, and may throw futher light on the present situation. As regards the Maritime Customs, I regret that I am unable as yet to add to the information I have already given to the House.

Newfoundland Fishery Regulations.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will say when the regulations with respect to the Newfoundland fisheries, provided for in the Anglo-French Agreement of April 1904, will be drawn up; whether the French Naval Division, which usually leaves for the Newfoundland fisheries about the end of April, was delayed in consequence of such regulations not being drawn up; and will he say who is responsible for the delay, and how the matter now stands.

Mr. RUNCIMAN (For Sir Edward Grey): The draft regulations which have been prepared under Article 2 of the Anglo-French Convention are still under discussion with the French Government, and it is not possible to name the date on which the negotiations will be concluded. His Majesty's Government have received no information as to the French men-of-war to be employed in the patrol of the Newfoundland fisheries.

China and Indian Opium.

Mr. BRIGHT (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, if the Chinese were to give notice of the termination of the Cheefoo Convention in order to get rid of the obligation to admit Indian opium, they would still be prevented from excluding it by the Treaty of Tientsin.

Mr. RUNCIMAN (for Sir Edward Grey): Section 7 of the additional Article of the Chifu Agreement provides that in the event of the termination of the additional Article the arrangement with regard to opium under the regulations attached to the Treaty of Tien-tsin revives—namely, import duty, thirty taels per picul, with transit dues to be arranged as the Chinese Government shall see fit.

The Judge Advocate-General.

Mr. PAUL (Northampton): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Judge Advocate-General, if removed from his office for reasons of public policy, would be entitled to pecuniary compensation; if so, by what special claim, from what particular source, and to what precise amount.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): This is a question of law on which I am not competent to give an opinion, but I may say he would not, I think, have any legal claim to compensation.

Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy will be issued; whether his attention has been directed to the fact that an order was made some years ago that, in consequence of the issue of these Reports being delayed until after Parliament had risen, they should in future be laid upon the Table earlier in the year; and whether such order has been disregarded.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I am informed that the Report for 1905 will be presented to the Lord Chancellor on or before June 30th, in accordance with the provisions of Section 162 of the Lunacy Act, 1890. There is no record of any order to the Commissioners on this subject. A Question was asked in 1885 and on that occasion the Commissioners said that they would do all in their power to hasten the preparation of the Report.

Port of London Immigration Board.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received any intimation that the Members of the Immigration Board for the Port of London disapprove of the instructions issued by him to immigration boards and immigration officers that an immigrant producing £5 is (in the absence of any reason for supposing that the money is not his own) to be considered to have satisfied the condition of Section 1 (3) (a) of the Aliens Act, 1905, as to having in his possession the means of decently supporting himself; and will he say under which section of the Aliens Act, 1905, he issued such an instruction.

*MR. GLADSTONE: This was not an instruction, but merely an expression of my predecessor's opinion, adopted by myself, that the production by an immigrant of £5 is a convenient way of showing to the immigration officer his possession of means. It has never been suggested that it should be an absolute test. I received two months ago a communication from the London Immigration Board dissenting from the use of the so-called "£5 test," but this was founded, I think, on the erroneous idea that the money was to be accepted as conclusive proof without further consideration.

The Channel Islands and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can now state what reply he has received from the Jersey States and the Guernsey Royal Court anent applying the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act to the Channel Islands.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey informs me that the Royal Court do not consider that the Bill can be made to apply to that island for the want of adequate local machinery to enforce it; but that the members of the Court approve the principle of the Bill and would be prepared to recommend to the States legislation on somewhat similar lines, with machinery adapted to local requirements. As regards Jersey, the matter is still under the consideration of the States, but I understand from the Lieutenant-Governor that the objections which apply in Guernsey to the extension of the Bill apply with even greater force in Jersey.

Royal Commission on Vivisection.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether in appointing the members of the Royal Commission on Vivisection he will make sure that both sides of the question are fairly and, as far as possible, equally represented, and that if any pronounced vivisectionist of the medical profession, who has practised vivisection, is appointed, an equally pronounced anti-vivisectionist member of the profession shall also be appointed, in order that the evidence to be laid before the Commission may be fairly sifted.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: In my recommendation to His Majesty I shall endeavour so to constitute the Royal Commission as to secure the fair and unprejudiced consideration of the whole question.

The Watt Case.

Mr. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is in a position to inform the House whether the evidence submitted to him warrants a re-opening of the Watt case; if so, will steps be taken to ensure the presence of the two principal witnesses, Lightfoot and Shuttle.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: I think the hon. Member somewhat misunderstands the position of the Home Office in this matter. I have no power to re-open the case in the sense of re-trying it, or ordering the evidence to be re-heard. All I can do is to consider whether any reason exists for advising the exercise of the Crown's Prerogative of Mercy; and I can only say that the representations which have up to now been made to me afford no sufficient ground for the grant of pardon or remission. I may add that it is not accurate to describe Lightfoot and Shuttle as the two principal witnesses.

Mr. O'GRADY asked whether as the confession of Lightfoot and the disappearance of Shuttle, two of the principal witnesses in the case, had created a fear in the public mind that there had been a grave miscarriage of justice, the best step would not be to re-open the case.

*Mr. GLADSTONE said he had already explained that he was unable to do that. It was not accurate to describe Lightfoot and Shuttle as the two principal witnesses.

Mr. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has any official information showing that James Shuttle, one of the witnesses in the Watt case, has fled to Canada, and that he was assisted in leaving the country by an agent of the St. Giles' Christian Mission, who admitted to Mr. Hugh Watt's solicitor, that he had handed to James Shuttle a lump sum of money on his leaving the country; and, if so, whether he proposes taking any action in the matter?

*Mr. GLADSTONE: I learn on inquiry that after the trial the Director of Public Prosecutions thought it right, as Shuttle was unable in consequence of the evidence he had given to obtain employment in London, and was moreover exposed to molestation, that he should be given an opportunity of making a fresh start elsewhere. Temporary provision was therefore made for his maintenance, and, after an interval, his immigration was arranged through the St. Giles' Mission, an agency for assisting discharged prisoners, the superintendent of which has great experience in helping men of Shuttle's class. Shuttle did not receive a lump sum on leaving the country, but his passage was paid and, as is usual in such cases, a small sum was given him in two instalments after he reached his destination. Of course no condition as to remaining abroad was imposed upon him.

Mr. O'GRADY: Is the Home Secretary aware Shuttle's passage was booked in the name of Edwards, and that he is supposed to be in communication with a certain individual at Ealing, and was given a sum of money for that purpose?

*Mr. GLADSTONE said he knew nothing of what might have passed between Shuttle and anyone in Ealing.

Mr. BOTTOMLEY asked if the Home Secretary's attention had been called to a letter recently received from Shuttle, in which he stated that by the arrangements, under which he went willingly, he was bound to remain away at least two years.

*Mr. GLADSTONE said he had seen the communication, but there was no foundation for the statement that any such condition was made.

Mr. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): Can the Home Secretary tell us where this money came from?

*MR. GLADSTONE: It came from the special service fund.

District Electric Railway.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that the District Electric Railway have shortened their trains running to East Ham by taking one carriage off many of the trains, and about sixty guards have been discharged during the last two months in consequence; and whether in view of the amount of overcrowding on these trains, he proposes to make any representation to the railway company in the matter.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I have communicated with the Metropolitan District Railway Company on this subject, and they inform me that their electric trains were at first formed of seven cars, but that it was found in general working that six cars were better adapted to their station platforms and requirements. The company state further that, in conjunction with the London Tilbury and Southend Railway Company they are carefully watching the traffic to East Ham with a view to putting on more trains where necessary, that additional trains have already been put into running, and that the existing service will be increased by seven more trains from the 1st June next. It is added that, although the reduction from seven cars to six temporarily dispensed with a number of men, any increase in the train service necessarily means the employment of more men, and that while 120 train-men were employed during the time steam traction prevailed, there are at present 440 train-men in the company's service.

MR. THORNE said the shortening of the trains was the cause of overcrowding.

Funds for the Unemployed.

MR. THORNE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he is aware that the Unemployed Workmen's Act of 1905 has made it necessary for the secretaries of the various distress committees to beg on behalf of the unemployed; and whether, seeing that the money received by this voluntary method is inadequate to meet the demands made upon the various distress committees by the thousands of men and women out of employment, the Government intend to bring in a Bill to deal with the unemployed problem, and get it passed before 1907.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): The Act contemplates that part of the expenses under it will be met by means of money supplied by voluntary contributions, and I am aware that appeals for these contributions have been made. The Government have already intimated their intentions with regard to the Bill referred to.

Cost of Public Vaccination.

MR. SOAMES (Norfolk, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to the increase which has taken place in the cost of vaccination since 1898, amounting in some unions to 500 per cent.; and whether he can take any steps to reduce it.

MR. JOHN BURNS: My attention has been called to this matter, and I am giving careful consideration to it with a view to seeing whether a reduction in the cost can be effected.

Work Regulations for the Unemployed.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to the desirability of revising the Regulations (Organisation for Unemployed), 1905, and especially Article V. of those Regulations, which in terms affects to govern both those cases in which the central body itself employs and controls the persons working, and also those cases in which it merely finds workpeople for borough councils and other bodies; and whether he will consider the advisability of framing separate regulations for each of the modes in which the unemployed are given work.

MR. JOHN BURNS: Article V. of the regulations only applies to cases where the central body themselves provide temporary work or contribute towards the provision of such work. I am not at present aware that it would be desirable to frame separate regulations for these two classes of cases. The Article would not apply at all where the central body merely find workpeople for other bodies without making any contribution towards the provision of the work.

In reply to a further question Mr. BURNS said he would be pleased to receive any statement the hon. Member might forward, but he was bound to say he had not received a single complaint on this particular point.

Troon Dock Post Office.

MR. BEALE (Ayrshire, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the intended permanent closing of Troon Dock branch post-office, and to the probable effect of such closing in discouraging traffic to and from the port and harbour of Troon, and to the petition of the railway and other companies interested in such traffic against the withdrawal of these postal facilities; and whether he will direct further inquiry before this branch post office is permanently closed.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): This question has been fully considered and it was found that there was not sufficient business to justify the continuance of a branch office at Troon Dock; but a sub-office will be opened not far off.

Fees for Mail Bag Collections.

MR. CREAN (Cork, S.E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether for the collection of mail bag by private messenger the charge is usually £1 1s. per annum; whether some people get special and better terms; and, if not, will he state what is the fixed practice of the Department in those matters, and amend the Post Office Guide, page 46, accordingly.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The charge for a private bag to be conveyed by a private messenger once a day is £1 1s. a year irrespective of weight. Special terms have been given in a few cases where the Department has received valuable concessions in return but not otherwise.

Education Code.

SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education when the education code for the present year will be presented, and when the same will be printed and circulated.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I hope that it may be available shortly after the Recess.

School Attendance Officers and the Education Bill.

MR. HUDSON (Newcastle): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether it is his intention to deal with the position of school attendance officers, particularly those who were constituted compulsory officers under the Education Act of 1870 and following amending Acts, and who have been subject to the control of different authorities; and can he say under what authority they are to be placed, and their *status* as civil servants, when the Education Bill now before the House becomes operative.

MR. BIRRELL: I am not aware that School Attendance Officers will be affected in any way by the new Bill.

Evening Recreation Schools.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether Clause 35 (a) of the Education Bill empowers a local education authority to endow evening recreation during term time, or whether the word holidays refers only to the school vacations and does not include other than school hours during term time.

MR. BIRRELL: The intention of the clause is as set out in the second paragraph of the Question.

West Riding (Yorkshire) Education Committee.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education when he proposes to enforce the decision of the Board that the deductions made by the Education Committee of the West Riding of Yorkshire from teacher's salaries in respect of the time devoted to definite religious teaching in the non-provided schools are illegal; and whether he will take steps to secure, under the Defaulting Authorities (Education) Act if necessary, that the sums deducted are refunded to such teachers at an early date.

MR. BIRRELL: I understand the Attorney-General will move for a rule *nisi* to-morrow morning.

MR. CLOUGH (Skipton): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is the fact that no legal decision has yet been given that a local education authority is liable to pay for definite religious teaching in non-provided schools; and is he aware that of all the non-provided school managers in the West Riding who insist upon teachers imparting denominational instruction the only board of managers which pays them for this service is the one of which the Marquess of Ripon is a member?

MR. BIRRELL: The whole object of the *mandamus* is to test the legality of the action of the West Riding. The Attorney-General will, I understand, move for a rule *nisi* to-morrow, Tuesday, morning.

MR. LANE-FOX inquired whether, in view of what had happened in the West Riding, the right hon. Gentleman could insert in the Education Bill an Amendment giving some appeal from the decision of local bodies, especially in connection with Clause 4.

MR. BIRRELL said he would wait and see what was the result of the application to the Court.

Education Bill Finance.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education when he will lay upon the Table the statement showing the estimate on which the sum provided in Clause 12 of the Education Bill has been based, together with the contemplated basis of distribution.

MR. BIRRELL: I am not yet in a position to make any statement on the subject.

Poor Relief in Scotland.

MR. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland what difficulties there are in the way of granting a Return of the number of persons in receipt of poor relief in Scotland, similar to the one made for England and Wales in March, 1904.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): I shall be glad to confer further with my hon. friend in regard to the Return which he proposes. The inspectors of poor have already been obliged this year to devote and are devoting much time to the preparation of a census of pauperism, as at March 31st, which has been called for by the Royal Commission on Poor Laws. That Return will contain a good deal of the information now desired. The whole subject will be very fully considered by the Commission, and I suggest that it would be premature and unnecessary to incur the additional trouble involved by the preparation of the Return now proposed by my hon friend.

Galway and the Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether the Government have received copies of Resolutions adopted by local bodies in Galway, inviting attention to the necessity which exists for the passage into Law of the Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill, and asking the Government to give every facility for such a purpose; and will he say what action the Government propose taking in the matter.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): Copies of the Resolutions adopted by local bodies referred to in the Question have been received by the Government. As to the intentions of the Government, I must refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Prime Minister to a Question addressed to him by the hon. Member for St. Patrick's Division of Dublin on Wednesday last.†

Jury Challenges at Connaught Assizes.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH (Sligo, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that, at the last Winter Assizes for Connaught, at Sligo, in the case of James Ward, of Castlebar, who stood charged with seditious libel, Mr. Garvey, Crown Solicitor for Mayo, ordered all Catholic jurors who answered to their names, to the number of sixteen, to stand by, and empannelled an exclusively Protestant jury; whether he has called upon Mr. Garvey to explain the grounds upon which he excluded all Catholic jurors from the jury box in Ward's trial; and whether he is aware that Ward was convicted and is still in prison.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 1265.

Mr. CHERRY: I am informed by the Crown Solicitor referred to that he was not aware of the religious convictions of any of the jurors ordered to stand by on the occasion in question, or of those of the jurors who tried the case. I was not Attorney-General at the time of the trial, and I am in no way responsible for what was done, and have made no inquiries except for the purpose of answering this Question. I do not know whether Ward is still in prison or not.

Jury Challenges—Instructions to Crown Solicitors.

Mr. McHUGH: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he will lay upon the Table of the House a copy of his instructions to Crown Solicitors in Ireland, with regard to the practice of directing jurors to stand by.

Mr. CHERRY: I have issued no new instructions to Crown Solicitors with regard to the practice of directing jurors to stand by, but prior to the last March Assizes I wrote a circular letter to each Crown Solicitor in Ireland calling his attention to the Rule issued on February 12th, 1894, by which Crown Solicitors are directed not to order any jurors to stand by on account of their religious or political opinions, and impressing upon these officials the importance of strict compliance with the Rule. I do not think that it would be in accordance with precedent to lay on the Table of the House copies of correspondence between the Attorney-General and the Crown Solicitors.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): If the instructions are followed, how is it that an exclusively Protestant jury was empanelled in Mr. Ward's case?

Mr. CHERRY: I have given the best Answer I can.

Irish Royal Canal.

Mr. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can now state the names of the present members of the Board of Control of the Royal Canal, and the dates of their appointment; do they receive any salary; how do they explain their having allowed the canal to be rendered unnavigable by the Midland Great Western Railway Company; are they or any of them shareholders in that company; under what authority do they allow that company to stop traffic on the canal and endanger the water supply of Mullingar; under what authority do they allow the company to erect gates across the towing path and derive revenue from grass growing on the canal banks; is he aware that Thomas Kelly, boatman, was summoned and fined at Mullingar petty sessions on the 12th instant for having allowed his horse to graze on the canal bank while discharging his boat, one of the magistrates being Captain Gloster, a near relative of Colonel Smythe, Midland Railway director, with whom he resides; and is it proposed to put the control of this canal in the hands of men interested in its restoration and preservation?

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.): The Board of Control of the Royal Canal at present consists of the Commissioners of public works in Ireland, namely, Messrs. Holmes (Chairman), Stevenson, and Hanson, who were appointed in the years 1901, 1902, and 1903, respectively. These gentlemen do not receive salary as members of the Board of Control, and none of them is a shareholder in the railway company. The canal as a whole is not unnavigable, although the depth of water in places is less than it is assumed to have been when the canal was taken over by the railway company. Numerous works of maintenance and improvement have been carried out by the company, at the instance of the Board of Control, during the last ten years. The Board have persistently pressed the company to increase the depths. They have given no authority to the company to stop the traffic or to endanger the water supply of Mullingar, and the Company deny that the water supply is, in fact, endangered. The Board were informed by the Company in 1895 that the gates and barriers on the towing paths had been removed. The Board's authority is not required to enable the Company to sell the grass on the canal banks. I am informed that Kelly was recently fined on two occasions for the trespass of his two horses on the canal banks, but the prosecution was not at the suit of the Railway Company but of the lessee of the owner, Lord Greville. I have already informed the hon. Member that the constitution and powers of the Board of Control are under consideration, and I am not yet in a position to make a further statement on the subject.

Irish Language in Irish Schools.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now explain his promised scheme for promoting the teaching of Irish in Irish schools.

MR. BRYCE: The scheme for promoting the teaching of Irish is in outline as follows:—A grant will be made for the teaching of Irish under what is called the "Bilingual Programme for Schools in Irish Speaking Districts," and this grant will be awarded either as a capitation allowance or as a fixed grant to each school taking the bilingual programme, this detail, however, has not yet been absolutely determined. Secondly, for schools not taking up the bilingual programme, whether in bilingual or English speaking districts, a capitation fee of 1s. for scholars in Standards II. and III. and of 2s. 6d. in the higher standards, will be payable for each scholar in average attendance who learns Irish according to the scheme known as the "Programme in Irish as an ordinary school subject." Conditions will be laid down to secure that the teaching is competent and effective, and regulations for the purpose are to be framed by the Commissioners. It is also proposed to make grants towards the maintenance of the summer courses of training in the Gaelic language which have been established at certain centres in Ireland. The grant of £5 is contemplated to be paid in respect of every teacher who has completed a course of training at one of these centres, and has thereafter been reported as having taught Gaelic satisfactorily for one year in a recognised public school. These proposals are in addition to those for which provision is made in this year's Estimates. The proposals which affect the current financial year are briefly as follows:—Prizes of £5 are to be given to a number, not exceeding thirty, of the best King's scholars who obtain certificates in Irish at the final examination for King's scholars. It is also proposed that the sum of £10 may be awarded to every teacher who has obtained such a prize, provided he is reported as showing high merit as a teacher of Irish for two consecutive years in a national school. The first prizes under this scheme will be awarded to certain King's scholars who will be leaving the training college at the end of the session now current. It is also proposed that there shall be a prize scheme for encouraging the study of Irish in the evening schools which shall not place on the Exchequer a greater annual burden than £500. This sum it is contemplated to expend in small book prizes, spread over a large number of evening schools. Both the scheme for the current year and the proposals which are intended to begin to take effect from July 1st next are to hold good for a period of three years, when the scheme for encouraging the study of the Irish language will come up for reconsideration in the light of the experience gained on its working. The sum which had previously been allotted to the Irish language teaching and which ceased July 1st was by a decision of the late Government transferred to the payment of assistant mistresses, so that the sums I have mentioned as now proposed to be spent will be an addition to the sum spent on primary education in Ireland. The Irish Government have given much thought to these proposals, which they believe will have the effect of securing much better results than were yielded by the system which it was decided almost a year ago to discontinue, the amount allotted to which was transferred to assistant mistresses.

MR. JOHN REDMOND asked what would be the total amount spent annually in this way.

Mr. BRYCE said the total amount under the scheme next year might reach £5,700, and the grant for the present year was in addition to that.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND asked whether he was to understand that as far as monetary provision was concerned, the new scheme would provide only about half what was provided under the scheme of fees which had been withdrawn by the Treasury.

Mr. BRYCE said the amount would be more than half, but he believed the result of the arrangements would be to make the new scheme a great deal more efficient than the former scheme. A great deal of the money spent formerly was spent with no good results.

Mr. LONSDALE asked whether the teaching of the Gaelic language was not intended to promote sedition.

Mr. BRYCE said he was suprised that anybody who knew anything about the matter should put such a question.

Distribution of Untenanted Lands.

Mr. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Irish Government, having regard to the need for the distribution of untenanted land, and the small progress so far made under the voluntary system, propose to exhaust the possibilities of that system this year by getting the Estates Commissioners to communicate directly a uniform letter to all owners of such land as shown on the forthcoming Return, and subsequently submitting to Parliament a Report showing the number of years purchase of the valuation asked, the refusals to sell, and the refusals to reply, respectively.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that when the Return in question has been prepared they propose to inquire from the owners of untenanted land, which appears suitable for purchase, whether they would be willing to sell such land to the Commissioners. Progress under the present voluntary system is now being accelerated. It would at present be altogether premature to make any statement upon the point raised in the concluding part of the Question.

Westmeath Evicted Tenants.

Mr. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state how many evicted tenants in Westmeath have been reinstated under the Land Act of 1903; how many are still unprovided for; the reason why they have not been provided for in view of the amount of untenanted land in the county; and what steps, if any, the Estates Commissioners have taken to acquire untenanted land for the use of evicted tenants and other persons in need of land.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that six evicted tenants have been reinstated in Westmeath, and that they have received applications for reinstatement from sixty-one evicted tenants in addition. The Commissioners have acquired 229 acres of untenanted land in the county and divided it among small tenants. They were also in negotiation for the purchase of 568 acres in this county, but the owners declined to sell at the estimated price. In the case of another estate the owner has lodged an originating request in respect of the sale to the Commissioners of some 166 acres of untenanted land in this county, and a scheme for the distribution and allotment of this land will be prepared in due course.

General Featherstone's Westmeath Estates.

Mr. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what is the practice of the Estates Commissioners when a landlord of an estate comprising untenanted and non-residential land lodges with them purchase agreements in respect of the tenanted portions, omitting all reference to the untenanted; and, for example, how do they propose to deal with General Featherstone's estates of this kind in Westmeath, in view of the memorials lodged with them for distribution of the untenanted land by the people of Whitehall and by the Delvin District Council.

Mr. BRYCE: Rule 11 of the rules of October 23rd, 1903, prescribes that the map lodged with the originating application or request shall show, in distinctive colours, the boundaries of any other lands in the neighbourhood, demesne or otherwise, which the vendor owns, but does not desire to sell. The Estates Commissioners inform me that no proceedings in respect of the sale of the estate referred to in the Question have yet been instituted before them. The representations of the tenants and of the rural district council will be duly considered if the estate should come before the Commissioners to be dealt with.

Woodford Dog Licence Prosecution.

Mr. REDDY (King's County, Birr): On behalf of the hon. Member for East Galway, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the proceedings at Woodford petty sessions on the 14th instant, when a man named James M'Mahon was summoned by the police for having a dog without a licence; whether he is aware that M'Mahon and his son both swore he had not a dog, and that the policeman admitted he did not see a dog but heard one bark, that he had a dog of his own with him which was barking, and that the policeman who gave evidence was accompanied by another policeman who was not examined because he did not see a dog or hear one bark except the dog they had with them; whether, seeing that the magistrates, White, R.M., and Lewis, J.P., fined M'Mahon, will he say whether payment of the fine will be insisted on; and whether, in view of the evidence given by Sergeant Sheridan and other policemen in recent years in Connaught which resulted in innocent men being convicted and sentenced to two years' hard labour, and the disbelief in police testimony in Ireland, a sworn inquiry will be held into the whole circumstances and conduct of the prosecution.

Mr. BRYCE: I am informed by the police authorities that James M'Mahon was summoned by the police for having had an unlicensed dog in his possession on a specific date, and was fined two shillings, which he has paid. The sufficiency of the evidence was a matter for the magistrates, and I cannot undertake to review their judicial decision by entering into the details of the case. The Inspector-General informs me that he is satisfied that the constable gave his evidence fairly. The case is not one in which a sworn inquiry can be ordered.

Colonel Smythe's Estate at Collinstown.

Mr. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what reply the Estates Commissioners received from Colonel Smythe, of Collinstown, or his agent, to their offer to purchase the evicted farms on his estate for their value plus a bonus; the date of that reply; what action, if any, the Commissioners have since taken to provide for the families evicted from those farms; and how soon do the Commissioners expect to be able to provide for those families.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estate Commissioners inform me that they communicated with Colonel Smythe with reference to two applicants as evicted tenants, but were informed by him that he was not prepared to restore these applicants or sell the lands in question to the Commissioners. The Commissioners have not since been able to take further action in the matter.

Irish Teachers' Salaries.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of teachers whose salaries were withdrawn during the years 1897 to 1905, respectively; whether teachers of thirty years service have, since the change of rules, been declared inefficient and dismissed without compensation or pension; and whether steps will be taken to have the whole scheme of rules and programme and treatment of teachers of the national board thoroughly inquired into.

Mr. BRYCE: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that during the nine years ended December 31st, 1905, salary was withdrawn from 260 teachers, because of long continued inefficiency or neglect of duty. In the case of any such teacher who had thirty years service, consideration was always given to that fact, and wherever it was possible with due regard to the educational interests of the pupils to suspend final action, teachers were permitted to continue their service until they became eligible for pension under the Teachers' Pension Act. The powers of the Lord-Lieutenant in respect of the Commissioners' rules arise only in cases in which the Commissioners seek to change any fundamental rule.

Fermanagh and the Congested Districts Board.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it would be possible for the Congested Districts Board for Ireland to schedule as congested districts the districts of Drumbad, Rosscar, Garrison, and Belleek, in the county of Fermanagh, as these districts, owing to bad land, small holdings, and defective communication, require the assistance of the Board quite as badly as many districts in the West of Ireland where the Board is spending large sums of money in improving the condition of the people.

MR. BRYCE: The Congested Districts Board have no power to increase the area of the congested districts, except that when they have purchased lands outside the congested districts for the benefit of any congested districts county they may apply for an Order in Council to have such lands scheduled under the provisions of Section 3 of the Congested Districts Board Act, 1901. At present there are not any congested districts in county Fermanagh, and the Board have not purchased any land in that county.

Newport (Tipperary) Evicted Tenant.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say if the Estates Commissioners have received an application from Thomas Malony to be reinstated in his farm at Castlewaller, Newport, county Tipperary, at present held by a planter named Dwyer, on the eleven months system, from which Thomas Malony was evicted a few years ago; is he aware that about thirteen other tenants purchased their farms some time previous to the eviction of Thomas Malony; and will he say whether he will recommend the Estates Commissioners to open negotiations with the landlord with a view to the restoration of his farm to Thomas Malony.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they received the application referred to on the 10th instant, and will have it inquired into by one of their inspectors in due course.

Secular Instruction in Irish Schools.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether by the rules of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland the minimum time for secular instruction is four hours; and whether, as a matter of fact in all primary schools at least five hours instruction is given.

MR. BRYCE: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that under their rules secular instruction must be given to senior pupils for at least four hours daily. This is inclusive of half an hour for recreation—so that under the rules the actual secular instruction ought to last for three and one half hours. In the case of infant schools and classes, the secular instruction need only be for three hours, including an interval of half an hour for recreation. In a considerable number of national schools the instruction, religious and secular, lasts for five hours, but it is by no means so in all national schools. I am afraid it does not follow that, because the rules provide for a certain minimum of hours of instruction, those hours are always given.

Rent Arrear Proceedings in Ireland.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a growing practice on the part of landlords in Ireland of threatening tenants with legal proceedings in the shape of issuing writs from the superior Courts for the recovery of all rents due, including the hanging gales (which in most cases accrued many years ago), with the object of putting pressure on tenants to enter into purchase agreements on the basis of exorbitant terms; and whether the Government will introduce legislation with a view to secure that such legal proceedings shall, where necessary, be instituted in the County Courts instead of in the superior Courts.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that, while they believe that such cases as are described have occurred, they have no evidence that the practice is increasing. If the Commissioners should have proof that the purchasing tenant in any case has been induced by undue pressure to sign the purchase agreement, they will take such action as they may deem necessary.

Mr. O'Mahony's Cordal Estate.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the estate of Mr. O'Mahony, situated at Cordal, near Castleisland, county Kerry, has come before the Estates Commissioners in connection with a sale to the tenants; whether he is aware that Mr. Monserrat, the landlord's representative, forced certain tenants to sign agreements at a high price, by telling them that anyone who refused to purchase would be served with a writ for arrears of rent; and what steps the Estates Commissioners propose to take in connection with purchase agreements signed under such conditions.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the estate referred to has not come before them in any way, and they have no knowledge of the matters of fact alleged in the Question. I have already stated that the Commissioners will consider any evidence which comes before them of duress brought to bear on tenants to compel them to sign purchase agreements, and will take such action as they may consider just and within their legal powers.

Irish Tenants' Rights.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will ascertain and state what is the statutory provision which the Estates Commissioners think limits their discretion in the matter of price to the gross security, and precludes them from taking cognisance of the fact that the tenant-right or occupation interest and unexhausted improvements, forming part of that gross security, are legally and equitably the tenant's property, and should not have to be bought by him with public money.

MR. BRYCE: The Question raises points of law as to which it would be undesirable for me to state the views held by the Estates Commissioners, seeing that the Questions may at any time be the subject of judicial decisions which would govern their action.

Collusive Purchase Agreements.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state why the Estates Commissioners do not exercise in all cases for the protection of the tenant's occupation, interest, and improvements, the power which it was held they possessed and had rightly exercised in the Blake-Foster case, to disallow a price as excessive, notwithstanding the collusion of landlord and tenants in support of the agreements.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that the decision in the Blake-Foster case did not turn on the question whether the tenant's occupation, interest, and improvements were included in the purchase money of the holdings, but on the question whether the property was fit to be declared an estate for the purposes of the Act, having regard to the character of the holdings and the price at which it was agreed that they were to be sold. The Estates Commissioners intend to exercise the discretion exercised in that case in all further cases of a similar character.

Irish Land Purchase Procedure.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland is it the policy of the present Government to allow the tenant-right or occupation interest, which the Land Act of 1881 secured to tenants and enabled them to sell, together with the tenant's unexhausted improvements, to be confiscated in purchase transactions under the Land Act of 1903, as in the case of King-Harman and Hayes and the numerous cases now ruled without trial by that decision; and how do the Commissioners reconcile their evidence in that case, and the decision to advance public money to a landlord for the whole property of which he owned only a part, with their subsequent assertion that no such thing is occurring.

MR. BRYCE: It is not the policy of the present Government to allow tenant right or unexhausted improvements to be confiscated. The latter part of the Question raises matters of argument which cannot be dealt with in an Answer.

Irish Railways.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government have in contemplation any scheme for the purchase by the State of the Irish railways.

MR. BRYCE: The reply is in the negative.

King-Harman v. Hayes.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in view of the importance of the decision in King-Harman and Hayes, will His Majesty's Government withhold approval of the suggestion to have the same question tried again by the same Judicial Commissioner, and instead of that have it tried at an early date by a full Court of Appeal.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the Question that arose in the case of Hayes and King-Harman must be submitted for decision in the manner provided by the Irish Land Act, 1903, Section 23; that is, by stating a case for the decision of the Judicial Commissioner. Should it be desirable, an appeal can be taken from such decision in the usual way to the Court of Appeal.

MR. GINNELL: Will the right hon. Gentleman see that a proper Court is constituted to try this case, and that the Treasury is adequately represented?

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University): Has the right hon. Gentleman any power over these Commissioners at all?

MR. BRYCE: I have repeatedly said that I have not.

Mr. Delmege's Knocklong Estate.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that negotiations for sale and purchase are proceeding between the landlord, Mr. Delmege, and his tenants on the property of Garryspillan and other townlands around Knocklong, county Limerick; and will he take steps so that the Estates Commissioners shall purchase about 200 acres of untenanted land lying near Garryspillane for division among the poor farmers and labourers of the locality.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no proceedings for the sale of this estate have come before them, and they have no knowledge of any negotiations for sale which may be proceeding. If the estate should come before them they will consider the question of purchasing untenanted land in the locality.

Knocklong Evicted Tenants.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, is he aware that, for several years past, Thomas Barry and John M'Graith, of Boheranore, Knocklong, county Limerick, have been evicted from their farms on the Cooper estate; and will he say if the Estates Commissioners have received any applications for their reinstatement in their holdings; and will he undertake that the Estates Commissioners will send an inspector to treat on the matter with the agents, Messrs. Robert and Charles Sanders, of Charleville, county Cork.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have received applications for reinstatement from the persons named, and will have the cases inquired into by one of their inspectors. In the meantime they are not aware of the facts. The Commissioners have been informed that the owner is not prepared to sell the two holdings in question apart from the rest of the estate, but they will make further inquiries on the point.

Trinity College, Dublin.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is in a position to announce the names of the Commissioners to be appointed to inquire into the affairs of Trinity College, and the terms of reference to the Commission.

MR. BRYCE: I am not yet in a position to make any announcement on this subject.

Irish Uneconomic Holdings.

MR. P. A. McHUGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that untenanted lands, which might be used for the enlargement of uneconomic holdings, are being disposed of by the Land Judge in Ireland without regard to the intentions of Parliament in passing the Land Act of 1903; that the orders of the Land Judge, being judicial acts, are beyond the control of the Irish Government; and will he state what steps, if any, the Government has taken to give effect to the Resolution unanimously adopted by this House on April 13th, 1904, in reference to the winding up of the business of the Land Judge's Court in Ireland in the interest of all concerned.

MR. BRYCE: I have referred this Question to the Land Judge, who informs me that his primary duty is to dispose of all lands for sale in his Court to the best advantage of the parties interested. It is, he states, not the case that untenanted lands are being disposed of by him without regard to the intentions of Parliament as expressed in the Act of 1903. On the contrary, a considerable quantity of untenanted land has already been sold to the Estates Commissioners under Section 7 of that Act, and the Commissioners are considering the question of purchasing other estates comprising untenanted lands which are for sale in the Court. As to the concluding part of the Question, I beg to refer to my replies to similar Questions put by the hon. Member for North Westmeath on March 22nd,† when I made a full statement of the proceedings of the Land Judge in winding up the business of his Court.

Irish Contempt of Court Prisoners.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that three men named Smith, Mulligan, and Fitzpatrick, of Cavan, recently committed to Dundalk Gaol by order of Judge Ross for an unlimited term of imprisonment on a charge of contempt of Court, have been released; and will he inform the House on whose order these men were released, and whether the order was conditional or unconditional.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that the three men named were released on April 23rd, on the completion of one month's imprisonment, by an order of the Land Judge's Court. The order of release was unconditional.

Kilmallock Evicted Tenant.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland is he aware that Edward Hartigan, of Patrickswell, Holycross, Kilmallock, county Limerick, has applied to the Estates Commissioners for their aid and support in reinstating him in the farm of his father, the late Timothy Hartigan, from which he was evicted some twenty years ago, said farm being part of the lands of Bettyville, Croon, county Limerick, the landlord being Reverend J. N. Lee, Hardwick Rectory, Cambridge; agent, Mr. Browne, Southville, Limerick; and will he see that the Estates Commissioners will send an inspector to negotiate between the landlord and tenant for an arrangement.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they received the application referred to, and approached the owner with a view to effecting a settlement. The owner, however, declined to part with the farm, stating that he himself had purchased the interest of Timothy Hartigan as tenant at a cost of over £800, and had expended a very large sum on improvements. The Commissioners have no power to compel the landlord to place Edward Hartigan in possession of the farm.

Lord Belmore's Tyrone Property.

MR. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the tenants who signed purchase agreements on Lord Belmore's Tyrone property were served with notices to pay interest on purchase money to the Land Commission ten weeks before the application of the landlord to the Estates Commission; can he state what official is accountable for sending out these notices; is it the practice of the Commissioners to divide, at the landlord's request, an estate for the purpose of sale under the Act of 1903, notwithstanding the protests of the bulk of the tenantry, who feel themselves unable to agree to terms they consider excessive; and will the Commissioners inform the secretary of the tenants' committee of the date on which the applications are to be considered, in order to give them an opportunity of stating their case, and submitting to the consideration of the Commissioners the reasonableness of their offer.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that the tenants in Question were, in accordance with the Act of 1896, served with notices to pay interest on the purchase money from the date of the purchase agreements. The date of the application to the Estates Commissioners is not the determining factor in the matter. The notices were sent out by the Land Commission in the usual way. In cases in which protests are received against the exclusion of part of an estate from the proposed sale, it is the practice of the Commissioners in cases in which they have any doubt, to hold a public sitting, and to hear the parties concerned before coming to a decision. Should necessity arise, the Commissioners are prepared to take such action in the present case.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 583.

Fitzwilliam Estate, Wicklow.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many of the 1,055 tenants, who have purchased their holdings on the Fitzwilliam estate, county Wicklow, purchased outside the zones; how many years' purchase did they pay on first and second term rents, respectively; and what was the total amount of their purchase money.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the purchase prices were outside the zones in only seven cases out of the 1,055 cases of purchase on the Fitzwilliam estate. In four cases the price was above the zones, namely, one case of a first term rent in which the price was 27·2 years purchase, and three cases of second term rents in which the price was 27·8 years purchase. In the three remaining cases the price was below the zones, namely, one case of a first term rent in which the price was 15·9 years purchase, and two cases of second term rents in which the price was 20·5 years purchase. The total amount of the purchase money in these seven cases was £4,287.

Fethard (Wicklow) Coastguard Station.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it has been decided to close the coastguard station at Fethard, county Wexford; if so, whether he is aware that a large and important stretch of coast will be totally unprotected; and whether, if the site of the present station is unsatisfactory in any respect, the Admiralty will erect a new station on the site which has been suggested for the purpose.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Fethard station has been closed owing to the houses being old and sanitarily defective. It is not proposed to erect a new station. The duties of watching the coast are performed by neighbouring stations.

Killarney Telephone Service.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the National Telephone Company were ready two years ago to open a telephone exchange in Killarney, but that, in consequence of the influence of the local postmaster, the urban council and the intending subscribers transferred their support to the Post Office on the understanding that the Post Office would at once provide the necessary accommodation; whether he is aware that the absence of such accommodation is much felt by the thousands of tourists who visit, as well as residents in, Killarney; and whether he can now make any statement on the subject.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The chief difficulty and cost in giving a telephone service to Killarney has been the necessity for the construction of a trunk line of about forty miles in length and not the establishment of a local telephone exchange. The proposals made by the National Telephone Company in 1904 related only to the establishment of a local exchange, and unfortunately their action prevented the acceptance of terms offered by the Post Office for the connection of Killarney with the trunk wire system as well as for a local service. I am glad to be able to say, however, that the construction of a trunk line to serve Killarney is in hand, and as my hon. friend is aware I have given special instructions that the work shall be pressed forward as rapidly as possible. Negotiations with the National Telephone Company are also in progress for the connection of Killarney with their exchange at Tralee, and I hope that a satisfactory arrangement will soon be come to in the matter.

Ireland and the Canadian Mail Service.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN : I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the statement of the chairman of the Allan Line that Moville as a port of despatch and reception of mails had been abandoned because a saving of time would be effected, he will say if he is aware that a greater economy in time and distance could be effected by making Galway instead of Liverpool the port of despatch and reception of Canadian mails; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

I beg also to ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the new arrangement that the steamers of the Canadian mail service shall no longer call at an Irish port, it is the intention of the Government to despatch all mail matter posted in Ireland and intended for Canada by way of Queenstown and New York; or whether such mails will be despatched from Liverpool by the Canadian mail steamers; and, if so, will he say when such mails will be made up in Dublin, naming the day of the week and will he say what day of the week they would be made up if the Canadian mail steamers visited as heretofore an Irish port.

I beg further to ask the Postmaster-General whether, seeing that the mail steamers from Great Britain to Canada have always called at an Irish port for the purpose of landing or taking Irish mails, that it is now arranged in connection with this mail service that an Irish port shall no longer be visited, and that inconvenience and delay in the matter of the distribution of mail matter in Ireland will be caused by this arrangement, he will make representations and take such steps as will secure that an Irish port shall be visited as heretofore.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON : The question of the call of the Canadian mail packets at Moville is still I understand under consideration. When the proposed change first came to my knowledge I informed the Canadian Government that I could not regard the abandonment of the call with favour, in view of the serious disadvantages to which it would give rise in this country and especially in Ireland; and I have entered a formal protest against the proposed change. The direct Canadian mail service across the Atlantic is, however, performed under contract with the Dominion Government and not with the British Post Office. Until the service is settled I cannot say how mails will be despatched.

In reply to a further question the right hon. Gentleman said he had no actual control over the matter.

Irish Post Office Savings Bank Deposits.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal N.) : I beg to ask the Postmaster-General, what is the average annual amount for the last five years deposited in Ireland in the Post Office Savings Bank; and whether he will take into consideration the advisability of transferring the business of that branch of the department from London to Dublin, having regard to the number of Irish officials employed, the convenience to them of living in Dublin, and the public benefit which would accrue from such transfer.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The average annual amount deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank in Ireland during the last five years was £2,287,341, the average annual amount withdrawn being £1,994,674. As I informed the hon. Member for South Kerry on the 8th instant,† it is more convenient and economical to keep the Savings Bank accounts at one central institution, and greater facilities are thereby afforded for making or withdrawing deposits at any office in the United Kingdom than would be possible if the Irish accounts were kept in Dublin.

False Immigration Representations.

MR. GEORGE ROBERTS (Norwich): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether the Government proposes to introduce a Bill similar to the Act respecting false representations to induce or deter immigration (4 and 5 Edward VII., c. 16) passed by the Canadian Parliament last year, as recommended by the Deputy Minister of Labour for Canada in his Report in the results of an investigation made into the representations of a party of British printers in a memorial addressed in January last to the British Prime Minister.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1171.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I have nothing to add to the reply given on behalf of my hon. friend the Under-Secretary for the Colonies last Wednesday in answer to a Question by the hon. Member for South Kilkenny.†

Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Disorders.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can say whether, in view of the fact that at an earlier period of the session the Report of the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Disorders was expected to be issued before Whitsuntide ‡ immediate publication may now be expected.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: My hon. friend does not quote the Answer I gave quite accurately. I informed him on February 22nd ‡ that Lord St. Aldwyn, the chairman of the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline, hoped that Report would be completed by Whitsuntide. There is a little shade of difference—a substantial shade—between "hope" and "expect." Lord St. Aldwyn now informs me that since that time the Commissioners have sat regularly two days a week, being very anxious to complete their work as soon as possible. The Report and recommendations are only awaiting final revision, and he anticipates that this will be completed, if not by Whitsuntide, at any rate in the week after Whitsuntide. The Commissioners have felt from an early period of the inquiry that the Report and evidence should be published together; and with this view, while the Report was being considered, the printing of the evidence and appendices, and preparation of the index have been pushed forward so that this work might be finished as nearly as possible simultaneously with the Report.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): Does the right hon. Gentleman think that will be in July?

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): About the 12th?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No. I have given a straightforward account of what the Commissioners have done, and I think from what we know that Lord St. Aldwyn, who is an energetic person, is likely to carry though anything he undertakes.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): May I ask the Prime Minister what Supply will be taken on the Friday after the House resumes after Whitsuntide, and whether it is still the intention of the Government to put down on the Thursday the Volunteer Vote. I have reason to believe that there is a desire that that Vote should be deferred.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddingtonshire) said he had been informed that there was a desire to discuss the Volunteer Vote later, and the Government were quite willing to meet the convenience of the House. He proposed to put down the Vote for his own salary on the first Thursday after Whitsuntide, and another opportunity of discussing the Volunteer Vote would be found later, probably in July.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that the Supply on the Thursday would be the Army Estimates—Votes 6 to 12, transport, remounts, ordnance department, armaments, works and buildings; Votes 14, 15, and 16, which were non-effective; and Vote 13 (salaries), to be withdrawn after discussion. Then the Home Office Vote would be taken. On the Friday the Civil Service Estimates would be taken, including Class 2, Vote 4, the Colonial Office, Class 2, Vote 2, Colonial Service, and the Vote for the Board of Agriculture.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Has the right hon. Gentleman formed any idea as to the date on which he proposes to discuss the next instalment of the recommendations of the Committee on Procedure?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he was anxious to take the discussion as soon as possible; but the Report had not yet been circulated, and, therefore, he thought he had better not say anything on the subject.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 1250.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clii., 519.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR, referring to the notice of motion for the suspension of the eleven o'clock rule for the purposes of the Education Bill, which stood on the Paper in the name of the Prime Minister, next asked to what limit of time the right hon. Gentleman proposed the House should sit. He reminded the right hon. Gentleman that, while there had been a very interesting debate going on for two days with regard to one alternative scheme to the Government's plan which came from below the gangway on the Government side of the House, the alternative scheme of the Opposition had not been discussed. There were two Amendments on the Paper, one in the name of his right hon. friend the Member for Oxford University and the other in the name of his hon. friend the Member for North Birmingham, which created immense interest outside the House, and he hoped the Government would enable the House to discuss them at a convenient time.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN thought the right hon. Gentleman was not quite accurate when he said the Amendment now before the House came entirely from below the gangway. There was an Amendment to the Amendment which came from very close to the right hon. Gentleman. The proposal before the House did not come from any one part of the House, but had given rise to a general discussion on a matter of infinite importance. He would have thought that matter had been so thoroughly discussed that the Committee might come to a decision on the two Amendments before it before what used to be the dinner hour. The Amendments to which the right hon. Gentleman referred could then be discussed afterwards.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he was, of course, aware that his right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham had moved an Amendment, but he wished respectfully to press especially that the scheme for facilities had not been, and could not have been, discussed on the Amendments before the House. He would have hoped that the Opposition were not less worthy of consideration than Gentlemen below the gangway.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN suggested that the Amendments referred to were quite as germane, if not more so, to Clause 2 as to Clause 1. They would, he thought, be better discussed on that clause. It was very desirable that they should dispose of Clause 1 that night in order to close that chapter before the recess began. He trusted there would be no difficulty in doing so.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it would, of course, be improper for him to debate the point, but the right hon. Gentleman must not assume that he agreed with him that the Amendment could be as well discussed on subsequent clauses. If they were to discuss general principles the sooner they get at them the better. There could, however, be no question as to the importance of the debate which must take place on the clause as a whole, and he hoped that that would not be taken at an unreasonable hour.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): Cannot some arrangement be made by which Questions to the Secretary for War can be reached before the expiration of the time allotted to Questions?

[No Answer was returned.]

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure:—Sir George Fardell; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Fletcher.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported: That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing) Shipping and Manufactures: Mr. Lane Fox; and has appointed in substitution: Mr. Haddock.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill intituled, "An Act to regulate the sale of certain poisonous substances, and to amend the Pharmacy Acts. [Poisons and Pharmacy Bill [Lords.]

NEW BILLS.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS BILL.

"To amend the law relating to the qualification and Tenure of Office of Medical Officers of Health and Inspectors; and for other purposes," presented by Sir Francis Powell; supported by Sir Walter Foster and Sir John Tuke; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 13th June, and to be printed. [Bill 234.]

SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES BILL.

"To enable Provisional Orders to be made for regulating Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries," presented by Sir Edward Strachey; supported by Sir Edward Grey; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 7th June, and to be printed. [Bill 235.]

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL.

"To amend the law relating to Musical Copyright," presented by Mr. T. P. O'Connor; supported by Mr. Balfour, Mr. John Redmond, Sir Alfred Thomas, Mr. Enoch Edwards, Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Crombie, and Mr. Sloan; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 7th June, and to be printed. [Bill 236.]

TIED HOUSES (ABOLITION) BILL.

"To provide for the abolition of Tied Houses, and to secure freedom for holders of licences for the sale of beer, ale, or spirituous liquors," presented by Mr. Ernest Lamb; supported by Sir George Kekewich, Mr. Alden, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Jenkins, Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Morton and Dr. Rutherford; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 7th June, and to be printed. [Bill 237.]

JUDICATURE (IRELAND) BILL.

"To provide for the abolition of two Judgeships of the High Court in Ireland, and to reduce the salary of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland," presented by Mr. Bryce; supported by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 13th June, and to be printed. [Bill 238.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.)

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on Clause 1 (England and Wales) Bill, if under discussion at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 330; Noes, 148. (Division List No. 97.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, John Williams (Devnp'rt
Bennet, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.

Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. W. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samnel, T.
Everett, R. Lacey.
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Gooch, George Peabody.
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip.
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncaster
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembr'ke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A, Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowden
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman W
Rose Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major, J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger. H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H. (Somers't E.
Thorne, William
Torrance, A. M.

Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmanan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.

Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merionethf
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson,A.(Elgin andNairn

Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon.C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh, N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham William (Cork N.E.)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn.Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beach, Hn.MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hn.Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone,E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn.J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A. (Wor.
Clancy, John Joseph
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim,S
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey

Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Halpin, J.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.Edm'd
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long, Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal, E.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Middlemore,John Throgmort'n
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John

Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Paulton, James Meller
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverhool)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E.Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
White, Patrick (Meath,North
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W).
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B.Stuart-
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

LABOURERS (IRELAND) BILL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.) said the Bill which he asked leave to introduce endeavoured to deal in a final and complete manner with a question which had long been agitated in Ireland, and which had given rise to discontent there. As far back as 1883 Parliament endeavoured to provide better houses for the labouring class in Ireland, but neither that Act nor several Acts which followed, attained more than a very imperfect success. Since 1883, a period of twenty-three years, less than one-half of the number of cottages which were estimated to be necessary had in fact been built, and the building had been very unequal in different parts of the country; particularly in some northern counties very few had been erected. The causes of this want of success had been three. First, the costly and tardy procedure which had hitherto been taken under the Acts; secondly, the failure of a certain number of rural district councils to build the cottages; and, thirdly, the want of funds, the heavy charge which the building of cottages had imposed upon the rates, and the consequent disinclination of some rural district councils to incur the necessary expenditure. The present Bill proposed to remedy the defects and to provide a better method by three principal changes. In the first place the Bill made a number of provisions for reducing the cost of procedure under the Acts. There had hitherto been an appeal to the Privy Council which had given rise to great delay and had been a very costly procedure. It was proposed to put an end to the appeal to the Privy Council and instead to enable the Inspector of the Local Government Board to make an order and to give an appeal to the Local Government Board, if necessary, in cases where land was compulsorily taken. Precedents might be found for this proposal in the Alkali Acts, and also in the way the Local Government Board dealt with the question of surcharges made by their auditors. By this means and other improvements in the procedure it was expected that a very great reduction of cost in the process by which cottages and land were obtained would be secured. It was also intended to reduce the periods during which notices had to be given where land was not taken compulsorily, and it was proposed to cheapen and to simplify the transference of land and the proceedings for obtaining title. He might add that the Local Government Board proposed to make matters still simpler by issuing uniform forms which the county and district councils could use, and also to issue model plans of cottages, under which architects' charges might be greatly reduced. The second way in which it was proposed to remedy the existing defects was to provide against the omission of district councils in many cases to prepare schemes for the creation of cottages, and it was proposed, where the rural district council was admittedly in default, that the Local Government Board should itself have the power of appointing an officer to perform the office which otherwise would devolve upon the district council, and in that way to improve the methods of procedure prescribed by the Act of 1891. Some changes were also to be made in the provisions of the Land Purchase Act so far as they contemplated labourers. It was proposed to strengthen the hands of the Estates Commissioners where the estate was sold, and they proposed to make provision for labourers' cottages by amending Section 96 of the Land Purchase Act. They also proposed to amend Section 4 of the Act by enabling the Land Commissioners to make advances under the Labourers Acts in a more workable and practicable form than at present existed under that section. He might note in this connection that he had introduced a clause containing a provision for enabling the labourers to pay punctually the rents they owed to the district councils, and to acquire holdings under the Land Act, and in that way to become themselves the owners of land. The most important part, however, of the remedial measures were those which had a financial character. He proposed to explain shortly the system by which they proposed to find the money to enable the Acts to work efficiently. There would be a very great cheapening in the initial cost of providing cottages by the economies he had described, but beyond that better terms for obtaining money would be needed, and they proposed three principal changes. In the first place it was proposed to allow loans up to the amount of £4,250,000 to be made to the district councils, for the purpose of erecting labourers' cottages and providing them with plots of land. The land charges terms meant the repayment in sixty-eight and a half years by an annuity of 3¼ per cent., covering interest and sinking fund.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) was understood to ask where the money would come from.

MR. BRYCE said that it would be assimilated out of the Land Purchase Fund. In the second place it was proposed to reduce the cost of the loans and to bear a part of the cost of the annuities of which interest and sinking fund would be secured by two sources of income—first, those sources called certain Irish Funds, and savings, viz., to take out of the Petty Sessions' Clerks Fund, which now stood at a sum of about £180,000, a capital sum of £150,000 and to invest it, and to apply the annual interest thereof to reducing the cost of the annuities. Secondly, it was proposed to take out of the Irish Development Grant a capital sum, after January 1st next, of £70,000. Under existing arrangements the sum of £50,000 would be paid up to March 31st next to form a fund for the flotation working balance of the land purchase system. It was proposed after that to draw upon the Irish Development Fund until a sum of £70,000 had been raised, which would be in the course of a little more than a year, and constitute this also a capital sum to be applied to the reduction of the annuities. In the third place, it was proposed to effect certain savings on the judicial establishment in Ireland and to apply the sum of £3,500 which belonged to a judgeship now suspended, to suspend or extinguish another judgeship, which would also give £3,500, and to reduce the salary of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland from £8,000 to £6,000. These three savings would give him a further sum of £9,000 a year. And lastly, it was proposed to take out of the Exchequer contribution which was paid to the county councils in Ireland for the purpose of labourers' cottages a sum of £6,000 a year, leaving a sum of £31,000 to help relieve the rural district councils of the charge which they were now under. In that way they arrived at a sum from these Irish sources of £22,300 a year, and that completed his second head of resources. That money would not be enough to enable what was necessary to be done, and he had had to appeal to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to enable the machine to work. He had come forward in what he might venture to say was a very liberal and large-minded spirit, and had undertaken to provide a grant for the purpose, a spirit which he appreciated, and which he trusted would be appreciated by hon. Members from Ireland. The grant was to be taken in this form. There was to be an Exchequer grant not to exceed £28,000 a year, which was to be paid into the Ireland Development Grant as necessity arose, and sums were to be taken out of the Ireland Development Grant to that amount, so that that which came out of the Development Grant would be replenished from these Exchequer grants. In that way these Exchequer grants would pay one-fifth of the total amount of the annuity, and these funds would amount altogether to £50,000. They had calculated the sum required under the improved provisions of the Bill at £130 for each cottage, and in addition a sum of £40 for the plot up to an acre of land which it was intended to give. He calculated, therefore, the land and cottage together at an average sum of £170. The loan of £4,250,000 would provide, upon the terms he had mentioned, 25,000 cottages. He believed that with reasonable economy on the part of councils and careful supervision of finance by the Local Government Board, it would be possible to provide many more than 25,000, and he hoped it would be possible to provide 30,000 cottages if necessary, and the annuities upon these terms on £4,250,000 would amount to the sum of £138,000 a year. Taking the rent at an average of 1s. a week—in many places they would no doubt be much higher, especially considering the increase to an acre of land—the rents were computed to amount to about £65,000 per year. Therefore when they added those two sums together it would give them a sum of £115,000 per year to reduce the annuities, leaving only £23,000 a year besides the cost of repairs and administration to be borne by the rates. Under the old plan much less than 20,000 cottages had been built. The total up to the end of 1904 was 17,400, the annuities upon which amounted to £131,000, and the rents to £37,000. The Exchequer contribution was £34,000 a year at that time, and the balance which fell upon the rates under the old system was no less than £60,000 a year. Yet under that system only 17,400 cottages had been built. They now proposed to provide 25,000 cottages at a charge to the rates, not of £60,000, but of only £23,000 a year. To put the matter in a somewhat different way, the charge under the old system on each loan of £200 for a cottage had been £5 12s. 6d., but under the plan proposed in the Bill it would be only £1 6s. 8d. Such were, put in the briefest way, the outlines of the scheme of the Bill. It had, no doubt, certain exceptional features, but he would venture to remind the House that there were circumstances in this case which justified very exceptional measures. In the first place, successive Governments had made promises to the labourers that their needs would be met, and it was undeniable that up to now those needs had not been met. In the second place, after so much had been done for the Irish tenants, and the enormous liability which had been incurred in order to enable them to become owners of their tenancies, it was very natural there should be discontent among the labourers. He thought it might reasonably be said, that when so much had been done for the tenants, they would be greatly failing in their duty to the people of Ireland if they did not give treatment in the same liberal spirit to the labourers. In the third place the condition of the dwellings of those poor labourers was deplorably bad. He did not think it would be possible to overstate the wretchedness and misery in which the labouring population of Ireland lived, and the necessity for removing the evil they suffered from. He would add that what had roused him most to the gravity of the case, and the need for strong and immediate measures, was the sanitary condition of the labourers' dwellings, the spread of disease, especially of tubercular disease, and the alarming increase of lunacy. He thought these facts, which he might have enlarged upon had time permitted, must be viewed by Parliament with sincere sympathy and deep concern. It was in the belief that the House would deem the exceptional provisions of the Bill justified by the urgency of the case, and in the earnest hope that those provisions would arrest the physical decline of the population, and give the labourers, rescued from their present despair, a new hope, and a better capacity for bettering their condition, and of bringing back prosperity to their country, he asked leave to bring in this Bill.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Law relating to Labourers in Ireland, and to make provision with respect to the application of portion of the Ireland Development Grant."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) thought everyone concerned in this matter had reason to congratulate himself upon the fact that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover abandoned his Labourers' Bill in 1904. If that Bill had been pressed forward and passed, as it would have been with the majority the right hon. Gentleman had behind him, they would not have seen this Bill, which was, at all events, a remarkable contrast to the Bill of 1904; in fact, a greater contrast between two measures he had never known in all his experience. When the Chief Secretary came into office, and proceeded to consider this question, the Irish Party pressed upon him three main points, and he had dealt in his speech with each of them. The first that they pressed as essential was that money for the purpose would be given at land purchase terms. Secondly, that there should be something, at any rate, in the nature of a bonus, or free grant; and thirdly, that there should be a cheapening, or shortening of the procedure, and simplification of the title which would render the work of the Act more expeditious. At present it was sixty-eight and a half years at an annuity of £3 5s. per cent., covering interest and sinking fund. The present rate for building cottages was £4 17s. 6d. per cent. Now this threw an enormous and unjust burden upon the rates, and stopped the working of the Act all over Ireland. It left a charge so great that it caused the work of cottage building in many districts to be practically suspended. It was not an exaggeration to say that in many districts it caused an annual charge on the rates of at least £6 a year. That was a very prohibitive charge, and when they asked the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover to cheapen the terms, at least, he not only refused to do so, but in a speech declared that no Chancellor of the Exchequer would ever dream of giving them land purchase terms. They urged on the Chief Secretary and the Treasury that there was no reason to refuse land purchase terms to labourers for building when those terms were given to landlord and tenant, and he was happy to think that as the result of their action the Chief Secretary had been able to do this, and to provide the money for building houses, and for the purchase of the land necessary for this Act at 3¼ per cent. interest and sinking fund. That in itself, if there was nothing else, was an enormous gain. The Chief Secretary had explained that in addition to this cheap money, Parliament proposed that a free grant of £50,000 a year was to be given in relief of rates. It came from two sources, £22,000 from the interest on certain Irish funds, and £28,000 in the shape of a free grant from the Treasury. So far as these Irish funds were concerned, he thought they had some reason to complain that they were touched at all; he thought it would have been more equitable if the whole £50,000 a year were provided as a free grant from the Treasury. They had certainly reason to complain of this constant draining of the funds of the Development Grant, which was intended for education, and so far as the sum from the Petty Sessions Clerk Fund was concerned, he must reserve his judgment. If his information was correct, this arrangement covered at least £4,000 or £5,000 a year which the local bodies at present got from that fund, and to that extent the allocation of this money would go in diminution of the £28,000 a year granted from the Treasury. Although he felt bound to say this, he had not the heart to make any very vigorous protest against this allocation if it was the only way of providing funds. If these Irish funds should ever have to be used for purely Irish purposes, then there could be no more deserving Irish purpose than that for which they were now being allocated. As far as the £28,000 free grant was concerned, he did not understand, and he did not like, the arrangement by which it was to be paid in and out of the Development fund. He thought unless they were very careful in the agreement with the Treasury, and with regard to the drafting of the clause, that the Development Grant might suffer, and find itself suddenly £28,000 less than it ought to be unless grants from the Treasury were given to it simultaneously with the other grants. The main point of the Bill which he desired to emphasise was the financial proposal of the Chief Secretary to provide £4,250,000 at land purchase terms and to make a free grant of £50,000. That was calculated on the basis of 25,000 cottages at £170. But he spoke of it to-day as a final and complete settlement of the question, and he must take exception to that. He thought the 25,000 cottages ought to be built in the course of five or six years.

Mr. BRYCE: It is an approximate estimate, but I think it would be possible to provide a good deal more than 25,000 cottages.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND agreed that the estimate of cost was too high, but he did not think the whole of this question could be settled with £4,500,000. He presumed that was only a calculation, and that in the Bill itself there would be no limit, and that when that was exhausted it would be still possible to go on drawing money on land purchase terms. The Chief Secretary had given some figures which he did not take down, but, as he understood the finance of this measure, it was as follows:—The present annual charge on the rates for one cottage built at a cost of £170, including the price of land at £4 17s. 6d., amounted to £8 5s. 9d. The future charge was to be at the rate of 3¼ per cent. for money; that was to say, the charge would be

£5 10s. 6d. In addition, there was to be a free grant of £50,000 in respect of 25,000 cottages. That would reduce the charge on each cottage to £3 10s. 6d., as against £8 5s. 9d., or a saving of £4 15s. 3d. He had left out the rent altogether; if the rent was brought in, then the £3 10s. 6d. would be reduced by 1s. per week which would make the annual charge on the rates something under £1. If that was so, no one could deny that it was a substantial and honest effort of the Government to grapple with the question. On the procedure clauses he could not speak, because he had not time under the ten minutes rule, but he was quite sure, from what the right hon. Gentleman had said, and from what he knew his intentions were, that the cost in respect to procedure and simplification of title would be reduced in the Bill by half or more, so that the reduction in respect to the cottage would go on in that part of the Bill also. He was glad to hear him say also that the provision in the Land Act which provided for certain classes of people, evicted tenants, and the sons of evicted tenants, who were endeavouring to obtain untenanted land and rise to the position of farmers, was to be amended so as to include labourers in future, and he was glad also that the clause which enabled trustees to be appointed to take up land for the purposes of the labourers and had been in operation under the Act of 1903 was to apply. He understood also that the limited rate was in certain cases, where it was found necessary, to be raised beyond a shilling in the £1. There were some other provisions with which he should have liked to deal, but manifestly he could not at present. He, of course, knew that it was not through any fault of the Chief Secretary that the Bill had not been introduced earlier in the session. He knew the difficulties which the right hon. Gentleman had to face, and the long and tedious negotiations which had resulted in his being able to do as much as he had done. But as the Bill was introduced late in the session he would urge upon the right hon. Gentleman to obtain the earliest possible date for the Second Reading. He trusted that after that stage the Bill would be examined by a Committee at the earliest possible moment so that there would be no excuse for hanging over the consideration of its clauses in Committee. He would therefore conclude by saying that he believed this was a comprehensive and honest measure of the right hon. Gentleman. He did not believe, however, that it was sufficient to settle this question completely, but nobody could have any doubt whatever that it would enormously mitigate the evils of the present system and facilitate the rapid building of houses all over Ireland in the next few years.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Bryce and Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland.

LABOURERS (IRELAND) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Labourers in Ireland, and to make provision with respect to the application of portion of the Ireland Development Grant," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, June 13th, and to be printed. [Bill 239.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, at the end, to add the words 'And unless provision is made that religious instruction shall not be given therein during school hours, nor at the public expense.'"—(*Mr. Maddison.*)

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'during school hours, nor.'"—(*Mr. Chamberlain.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid) said they had been told again and again that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham did not in this matter represent the views of what was called the regular Opposition, and that the Committee had to deal with yet another Amendment before they came to the end of the various proposals from different parts of the Committee dealing with the thorny subject involved in Clause 1. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had tried to get support for his Amendment from all quarters of the Committee. He tried first of all to get the support of the hon. Member for Burnley; he afterwards tried, and to some extent succeeded, in getting the support of hon. Gentlemen below the gangway represented by the hon. Member for Leicester; he also made a strong appeal to the Roman Catholics represented chiefly by hon. Members from Ireland who were, it was said, going to support the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman. He (Mr. Evans) would endeavour to navigate his way between these rocks and state what in his judgment was proper and fitting in regard to this thorny question. The Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham incorporated a view which was strongly held on the Ministerial side of the House—the principle that the State ought not to interfere at all as such in any matters pertaining to religion. Obviously that was not a principle which would appeal strongly to those with whom the right hon. Gentleman was now associated, because it was the very root principle of the disestablishment of the State Church. The essence of the Amendment was that facilities were to be given all round, or, putting it in other words, that there ought to be complete right of entry for all denominations in school hours to teach whatever denominational views they had upon subjects relating to religion. What was claimed as common ground by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham did not exist in fact. The hon. Member for Leicester desired that the elementary education of the country should be built as a superstructure upon a completely secular basis. That was not the case with regard to the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. The State would interfere according to that Amendment. What did the State do? The State compelled the attendance of children at school, and bore the expense of making attendance compulsory. The children would have to be arranged in classes according to the various denominations for religious instruction. As this teaching was to take place in school hours, the carrying on of the school, the maintenance of the school, and the payment of teachers, whether they taught religious subjects or not, would all have to be done at the expense of the State. So what was claimed to be common ground between the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham and the hon. Member for Leicester did not in reality exist. The result of the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment would be to do away entirely with Cowper-Temple teaching. At one blow the arrangements under which religious teaching of a denominational or sectarian character was at present given, would be at once swept away. That was a proposal which did not appeal to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London. They had had from the right hon. Gentleman rather late in the day what they were entitled to have long ago, an acknowledgment of the valuable and admirable teaching which had been given under Section 14 of the Act of 1870. It must be so, or else the right hon. Gentleman stood condemned. What did he do in 1902? The result of the legislation of that year was that half of the children of the country were taught what religion the teachers gave to them under the Cowper-Temple clause. Would the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham deal with the difficulties of the situation? Who was to arrange the time when instruction was to be given, the number of denominations to come in, the order in which they were to come in, what the ordinary teachers were to do in the meantime, and on what scale, if these teachers did undertake to instruct in religious subjects, they were to be paid? Suppose there was candidature for teaching religion by two members of the same denomination, as, for instance, between a high churchman and a low churchman, it would have to be decided which should prevail. The right hon. Gentleman's plan would not work. He imagined that his Amendment was proposed rather in a hurry and without due consideration of the difficulties of the case. Would Roman Catholics like Protestants of all denominations to go into their schools and teach children belonging to other denominations? That was the plan of the right hon. Gentleman. If that were done, what would become of what was called the atmosphere of the school? These difficulties might be pointed out *ad nauseam*. He was very much surprised at a statement made by the hon. Member for Leicester in answer to the right hon. Gentleman. The hon. Member said that—

> "Although he might have serious objections to the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, nevertheless if it came before the Committee with the weight and authority behind it, a good many of them might be very willing seriously to consider whether they ought not to waive those objections, in order to give an earnest to the opposition to the religious organisations who were opposing the Bill that they were anxious to meet them on common ground."

He did not understand what the common ground was. The very essence of the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham was that in school hours there should be denominational teaching at the expense of the various denominations, and that, he thought, was a matter which was not agreed to by the hon. Member for Leicester and the Labour Party. [Cheers from LABOUR Members.] He was glad he was interpreting the views of the Labour Party aright. With regard to the Irish Party this Amendment not only swept away religious teaching under the Cowper-Temple clause but it did away entirely with Clauses 3 and 4 of this Bill.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN (Birmingham, W.) said the hon. Member was entirely mistaken. He had taken pains to explain that his Amendment had nothing to do with the 3rd and 4th Clauses.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said he failed to understand how the right hon. Gentleman's plan could work if they retained Clauses 3 and 4. The proposal of the hon. Member for Burnley was one for secular education. He desired to point out to him that this Bill was one which provided secular education in the schools all over the country. Nothing was possible under this Bill but secular education except under Clauses 3 and 4 unless by the consent of the local authorities. But if it was right to provide secular education at all as the basis of the Bill, it was proper to give the local authority the right to say whether simple Bible teaching was to be given to the children in their schools. That was a principle in favour of which he went most strongly. He did not know whether the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education bound the Government. At any rate it did not represent his views. The proposed system was one which had been tried and not found wanting. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh, oh."] He did not know whether hon. Gentlemen opposite had examined the various syllabuses which had been prepared by the different County Council Education Committees in the country. Attacks had been made upon the action taken by some school authorities in the Principality. He did not think that any one would say that they desired that the children should not be brought up in some principles of religion which were held in common by the people of this country. He entirely dissented from the hon. Member for Leicester when he said that many Members of this House took no interest in the elementary education of the country. He always understood that this House represented all classes of the community; and it was entirely erroneous to suggest that those in any class who did not usually send their children to the elementary schools were therefore not to interfere in this matter. He wanted to read the syllabus of the Glamorgan County Council. In every one of the standards some portion of scriptures was to be read and committed to memory. Would anyone say that he had any objection to a child being taught to read a psalm in a common-sense way but not in a sectarian way, which would be the badge of the teaching if the Amendment of the right hon.

Gentleman were carried? He wished to call attention to what was done in the way of moral teaching, based upon Bible reading, by a reference to the following subjects:—Forgiveness, forbearance, the Ten Commandments, fidelity to duty, Sabbath observance, truthfulness, patience, humility, obedience to parents, early piety, benevolence, gratitude, honesty, and love. But if any part of the country could safely be left to purely secular instruction, he thought that Wales could. For, whereas the number of children in the day schools there was 420,000 the number of scholars in the Sunday Schools was no less than 673,720. The more he studied the Bill of the Government the better he found it. And even the various Amendments they had been discussing only tended further to persuade him of the excellence of the Government plan. He would like to read a passage from a book, "Grammar of Assent," by a man whose voice would be listened to by every Member of the Committee, and especially by the Irish Members. The late Cardinal Newman, after he became a convert to the Roman Catholic Church speaking of Sects said—

> "There are only denominations, parties, schools, compared with the national religion of England in its length and breadth. 'Bible religion' is both the recognised title and the best description of English religion. It consists not in rites, or creeds, but mainly in having the Bible read in the Church, in the family and in private. Now, I am far indeed from undervaluing that mere knowledge of scripture, which is imparted to the population thus promiscuously. At least in England it has to a certain point made up for great and grievous losses in its Christianity. The reiteration again and again in fixed courses, in the public service, of the words of inspired teachers under both covenants, and that in grave, majestic English, has, in matter of fact, been to our people a vast benefit. It has attuned their minds to religious thoughts; it has given them a high moral standard; it has served them in associating religion with compositions, which, even humanly considered, are among the most sublime and beautiful ever written. Especially it has impressed upon them the series of Divine providences in behalf of man from his creation to his end; and above all, the words, deeds, and sacred sufferings of Him in whom all the providences of God centre. It has been comparatively careless of creed and catechism, and has, in consequence, shown little sense of the need of consistency. What Scripture especially illustrates, from its first page to its last, is God's providence, and that is nearly the only doctrine held with a real assent by the mass of religious Englishmen. Hence the Bible is so great a solace and refuge to them in trouble. I repeat' I am not speaking of particular schools and parties in England, whether of the High Church or the Low, but of the mass of piously minded people living in all ranks of the community."

He thought it right to call the attention particularly of his hon. friends from Ireland to the value which Cardinal Newman attached to Bible teaching.

MR. MADDISON (Burnley) wished to know whether the words the hon. and learned Gentleman had quoted applied to Bible teaching in scdools.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said they applied to Bible teaching generally. He had read the words in which Cardinal Newman dealt with the subject of Bible reading in the Church, in the family and in private life—he himself added that he desired to see it in schools—as showing the value of Bible teaching. In regard to the person who was to give the teaching, he could not see why there was any serious objection to the ordinary school teacher imparting this class of instruction under Clause 14 of the Act of 1870. He would rather trust to the common sense of the mass of the teachers than to any other source of instruction. The instruction would be better done in that way than if they trusted to ministers. It was a dreadful thing to think that these little children should be treated as the *corpus vile* upon which to experiment or the *casus belli* over which a religious battle should be fought. Rather than that they should be squabbled over in this way he would trust to the common sense of the ordinary teacher throughout the land. He felt convinced that they would deal more fairly with the children than those who endeavoured to impart any particular creed. He preferred to leave this education to the teachers rather than to the clerics, and in saying this he was not referring to any particular class of clerics. When the phrase, "the great enemy is clericalism" was made use of it did not refer to the Church of England at all but to all clerics. For instance, take the bishops. Dr. Gore, the Bishop of Birmingham, had said that no one could make a child realise the meaning of the clause in the Lord's Prayer, "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil" without reference to the evil one. He said—

> "No one can make a child realise the meaning of the clause 'Deliver us from the evil one' (granted the right translation as given in the revised version) without teaching that there was an evil spirit, called the Devil, who tempts children and all men (including politicians)."

Could anyone believe that that was the pronouncement of a leading ecclesiastic, and was it not apparent that it ought to be preceded by a preamble to the effect that the politicians referred to belonged to a different party from that to which the Bishop belonged? He contended that the Amendment ought not to have the support of hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House, and ought not to have the support of hon. Members from Ireland. He believed that the Bill of the Government was the best solution of the question and he should therefore oppose the Amendment.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) said that the hon. Member for Leicester expressed some curiosity as to the mode in which he should vote upon this Amendment. He would therefore explain that he proposed to vote in the first instance for the Amendment of his right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham. If that proposal was adopted, he proposed to vote for the Amendment as amended. If it was not adopted, he should vote against the Amendment. It might be suggested that in voting for the Amendment, even if it were amended by the Amendment of his right hon, friend, he was taking a step in the direction of secularism, but that was not his view, nor was it his desire to see the State withdrawn from all responsibility for religious teaching in our public elementary schools. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had said that this Bill was one for the promotion of secular education, but although he did not think very well of that Bill, he did not think so badly of it as all that, neither did he fear that this would be the result of removing all State or rate aid from any form of religious education in our schools. But what he asked was, why should one special form of religious teaching be made the subject of a demand upon the ratepayers or the State, while others were excluded? If they were laying a foundation of religious teaching on which all could agree as the basis of a system of national education, there might be some reason for calling upon all to contribute to religious teaching, which was common to all, but was that the case in regard to Cowper-Temple teaching? They had heard members of the Roman Catholic religion say that they regarded Cowper-Temple teaching as not only not desirable, but as hostile to the religious teaching of their Church, and he understood the hon. Member for Leicester to say that, as religious teaching, it was nearly, if not altogether, useless, because it did not afford that moral and religious discipline which was desired. Then they had a very large section of the Anglican Church who regarded this teaching not so much as being bad in itself, but as being insufficient, inasmuch as it did not teach the child that it was a member of a society which had a particular belief, and did not form the foundation for the religious teaching which was to be given by the special teachers of particular denominations. What was described as Cowper-Temple teaching or as fundamental Christianity was not satisfactory to many branches of the Christian Church, and did not embody any particular form of religious teaching. They had heard many forms of syllabus from Hampshire and other places which did no doubt provide useful instruction in the meaning of selected passages from Scripture; but then Dr. Clifford contended that the Bible should be read without comment except as to its historical and literary merits, and then again, there were local authorities like Carmarthenshire in which religious teaching would have been excluded altogether, under the by-laws of the county council submitted to the Board of Education. Cowper-Temple teaching was unsatisfactory to the great mass of the community from the religious point of view, its character was indeterminate; its very existence was uncertain; and he did not see why this particular form of religious teaching should be paid for out of the rates. It appeared to him that the Amendment as it was proposed to be amended would do much to clear the ground upon which they might build a solid superstructure which would be satisfactory to the various denominations, and also to those who did not desire denominational teaching. He desired that religious instruction should be given in school hours, and that the by-laws respecting school hours should be so framed as to give to all the children whose parents desired it religious instruction, while children whose parents did not desire it should be exempt, and should receive secular instruction instead. It could not be said that if they withdrew all rate and State aid from religious teaching they committed themselves to secular instruction so long as they secured religious teaching of any sort which the parents desired in the hours of compulsory attendance. He did not see how the Amendment touched Clause 4 if, as they had been assured by the Minister for Education, under that clause the voluntary schools, where practically all the children belonged to one denomination, were to go on as before. Then the clause, amended so as to ensure this result, would be not merely necessary and desirable but excellent. As to the teacher, the Parliamentary Secretary dwelt the other day in language which he admired on the great importance to the child of receiving his religious instruction from the teacher whom he regarded as his guide, philosopher and friend. He could see no reason why a teacher, if he were willing to do so, should not teach in any branch of religious teaching he was capable of teaching. There had been a great deal of talk in the course of the debate on the subject of tests, and attempts had been made to show that it was inconsistent to say that the teachers should be immune from tests, and, at the same time to say that a teacher might be asked whether he could conscientiously give the particular religious teaching which he was being engaged to teach. He contended that the two things were perfectly consistent. The Bill provided against a requirement as to subscription which had never existed, but the Bill did not touch the requirement of considerable numbers of trust deeds that the head teacher should be a member of the Church of England. These were tests, and for his part he would be perfectly willing to see every test of that character swept away; but to tell any sane man that when they were engaging a teacher they were not to ask him whether he could give the teaching that they were to provide and which he was employed by them to teach, was, to use an expression with which the Committee was familiar, something approaching to raving lunacy. Such a view was not held with regard to any other class of employment. He did not see why a teacher should be immune from any inquiry as to whether he was competent to teach the subject which he was being engaged and being paid to teach. If they could have religious teaching in compulsory school hours, if they had Clause 4 improved in the direction in which they were assured it would be improved, if they were able to use teachers for religious teaching which they were capable and desirous of giving, then, he thought, it only remained that that procedure should be applicable to all schools. If all schools were provided schools and no aid of any sort from rates or taxes was given to religious teaching then he could not understand any ground for any further distinction between the schools which had once been voluntary schools and the schools which had always been provided schools. They were told that if the Amendment amended as suggested were carried, Cowper-Temple teaching would die out. After all the laudations they had heard of Cowper-Templeism was it conceivable that directly rate aid was withdrawn it would die out or that the small sum necessary to provide it would not be forthcoming? He could not suppose that hon. Members seriously thought that Cowper-Temple teaching would be in any danger if rate aid was withdrawn. He did not believe that a system of purely secular education would be acceptable to this country. He had had some opportunity while at the Board of Education of informing himself as to the feeling of the working classes with regard to religious instruction, and he formed the strongest opinion that in all parts of the country they were extremely anxious that their children should have some religious education. He for one was prepared to put all forms of religious teaching on an equality; but they must insist that religious teaching should be available for those who wanted it and of the sort that they wanted, and if they did that they would have made some steps towards a settlement of the difficulty.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said the Committee had been debating this important subject—the two debates on the Amendment and on the Amendment to the Amendment having been welded into one—for some seven and a half hours; and, without seeking in any way to hint that the moment for the conclusion of the debate had arrived, he still thought it would be desirable that it should be brought to a conclusion as early as possible, in order that ample time might be allowed to consider the important Amendment which stood in the name of the hon. Baronet the Member for Oxford University. Religion was often said, only too truly, to be a source of division; but he thought that in this debate it had been proved to be capable of being in some respects a source of union; for all the speeches, with hardly an exception, had breathed the spirit of the recognition of the difference between them, and had shown a strong desire to come, if possible, to some settlement which might prove to be lasting, and leave no living sense of injustice behind it. He was also particularly glad that throughout these debates they had had no references, or, at all events, very few, to foreign countries, or even to the United States, or even to our own Colonies, proud as we were of them. We had our own ecclesiastical history, painful in some respects as it had been, and he felt quite sure that any settlement that would ever be arrived at on this subject would be an English settlement, and in accordance with the wishes and disposition of the great body of the English people. Any idea of expurgated school editions of Shakespeare or Milton, or even Longfellow or Mrs. Hemans, to be used in our schools, so that children might not be offended by references to Divine Providence, would be received with yells of derision, and with disgust from one end of the country to the other, and no Government, by however great a majority it was supported could survive such an absurd, fantastical, and babyish proposal for a single hour. Any solution at which they might arrive would be based on sounder and more sensible principles than that. The Government had made it clear by the first clause that they proposed to adhere to that system of national instruction which was permitted by the clause in the famous Act of 1870, to which the name of a blameless and still honoured Member of Parliament had been given. The Leader of the Opposition had made his position in that matter perfectly clear. He had made it quite clear that he greatly disliked as a system of religious teaching the kind of instruction permitted in the Cowper-Temple clause. He did not like it because in his opinion it hampered and restricted religious teaching; because it arrested the full and proper development of religious teaching, and, therefore, to that extent endangered the variety of religious teaching. Therefore, he expressed, as he often had done, his dislike of the instruction authorised and permitted by that provision; but he also proceeded to tell the Committee that if he was driven to make his choice between the kind of religious instruction permitted under Clause 14 of the Act of 1870 and education on a frankly and avowedly secular basis, he would prefer even the Cowper-Temple teaching. In adhering to this kind of instruction and to some extent doing what they could, at all events, to make it the normal state of things throughout the schools of the country, save those which came in under the special facilities given under Clause 4—in doing that they had done it because, after full consideration and having taken into account the experience of the last thirty-six years, they believed that for Protestant children between five and fourteen in our public elementary schools the system of religious instruction which bears the name of Cowper-Temple was the sound and sensible system of religious instruction that was required. That might be criticised, but nevertheless they believed it to be a sound and, he would go so far as to say, a definite system of religious teaching. He had never used the word "undogmatic" in connection with a system of religious teaching which involved the existence of God and the authority of the Holy Scriptures, and a life beyond the grave. How could any one by any possibility speak of such a system as that as being undogmatic? These were the most stupendous dogmas, and they were to be found forming the fundamental system of every school of Christian theology. There they were, and there they were taught and could be taught throughout the schools. But if we were told that to Protestant children the teaching was injurious in the sense that it rendered any subsequent instruction difficult and perhaps impossible, why then, indeed, that would be a grievous objection to Cowper-Temple teaching. Although he had received thousands of communications from the clergy—he wished he had had time to reply to them, but he had given them careful consideration—he did not think he had received a single letter from any clergyman stating that when he came to prepare pupils for confirmation classes, he found those children who had been subjected to this religious instruction were in any state of mental ferment on the subject of Church principles and teaching, or in any sense unprepared to receive its definite instruction. He did not think in the case of Protestant children it could honestly be said that this religious teaching from the syllabuses of the council schools was in any way hostile to fuller treatment of Christian theology at the hands of the clergy of the Church of England. It was not hostile in any sense to the subsequent treatment of religion by any Protestant body; and, being wholly persuaded that it was in full accordance with the desires of the people of this country and with past experience the Government proposed to adhere to it.

They had now the Amendment that was before them proposed by the hon. Member for Burnley. He was bound to look at this from an eminently practical point of view. Let them consider what the proposal involved in the school life of any school in the country. According to the Amendment of the Member for Burnley, the life of the school would not begin until the appearance of the teacher—say, at 9.45 in the morning. School instruction would then begin; there would be no prayer; there would be no hymn; there would be no devotional Bible reading or anything of that kind. School would begin at 9.45 with strictly secular subjects, and so it would continue until the hour of dismissal arrived at 12 o'clock, and then there would be the same thing over again in the afternoon. That would be the life of the school—a purely secular life—although it did not interfere with the use which the local educational authorities or the owners of the school might choose to put their buildings to between 9 and 9.45. Such a proposal would, in his opinion, deal a heavy blow at the religious instruction of the child, and would in itself, therefore, to his thinking, be bad. He did not wish to underrate the importance of teaching children the elements of morality; he attached considerable importance to such teaching, and if he remained much longer responsible for the Education Department, he hoped in the Code to give some encouragement to such instruction. For he was persuaded that, rationally conducted, it could be made a very live and a very real thing. He did not think for a moment that morality could only be taught upon a theological basis. He was quite sure that it could be taught, with spirit and with force, apart from such basis. He supposed the most stringent code in the whole world was the code of honour, which was obeyed with marvellous punctiliousness by people who called themselves men of the world, and yet the injunction of the code of honour, "Thou shalt not cheat at cards," for example, could not be said to be a Christian maxim. He did not think they would find it in Thomas à Kempis, or in Baxter's *Saint's Rest*, or even in that very favourite treatise of the eighteenth century, far too tinctured with Arminianism to be pleasant to him, *The Whole Duty of Man*. It had its origin and source in quite a different atmosphere, and yet they knew how strong was the social sanction underlying it. There were other sanctions besides the religious sanction; the social sanction was one of them and the moral sanction was another. He was quite willing that the children should be taught the elements of morality, as opportunities offered, but neither morality for children nor philosophy for children of a larger growth was any substitute for religion; and therefore the Government could not give any sort of support or assistance to the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for Burnley. Then there was the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Birmingham, whose experience, and the attention he had given to these subjects, entitled him to full consideration. Any proposal that he made must be considered very carefully. With him, school life would begin at 9 o'clock, instead of at 9.45, and the head teacher and staff would make their appearance at 9. Let him ask how was the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment going to work in a common case. Let them take a country schools with 120 children in average attendance. It might be a school belonging either to the council or to trustees and carried on subject to the trust. Let them suppose that seventy children had been baptised in their parish church, and that their parents attended the services of the Church of England; also that there were thirty Primitive Methodists—no unusual proportion — ten Baptists, five Roman Catholics, and five children whose parents withdrew them altogether from any kind of religious instruction. The clock struck 9 and these 120 children made their appearance. The teacher had to provide for them; he was the paid official of the local education authority; his duty was to give secular education, and secular education alone, in respect of the salary he received from the local education authorities. His duty would be to give secular instruction to the five whose parents had withdrawn them from religious instruction altogether. They might be augmented to ten if the Roman Catholic children claimed the same privilege of withdrawal. If the head teacher chose to say, "My duty to the local education authority binds me to give instruction to these children," no exception could be taken to his course of action. The children would have to be provided with some separate room or place of accommodation. Not even the Member for North Louth could do a rule of three sum if a hymn were being sung in his immediate vicinity. The section of those children who were receiving their secular instruction in the three-quarters of an hour otherwise to be devoted to religious instruction would have to be educated in some separate room. The head teacher, however, might assign the task of teaching these children to one of his assistants. The question arose, what about the others? Here were seventy Church children; let them suppose the head teacher happened to be a member of the Church of England. They knew that no test was to be applied. He did not understand whether any question was to be asked as to whether he was prepared to give any kind of religious teaching. It might very likely happen that the head teacher was a member of the Church of England himself; he would, therefore, be very pleased to give, either for love or reward, religious instruction to these seventy children. He did not hesitate to say himself that the result of his doing so would be that all the Primitive Methodist children, or almost all of them, would attend the class to receive teaching at his hands, just as they did now in the schools they were obliged to attend—the Church of England schools. They would follow his teaching, and he would be able to teach them the doctrine of the Church of England so far as he thought fit to impart it to them. There could be no complaint against him. It was a fact that children would prefer to be taught by the head teacher, and he would prefer to teach them. In order that he might exercise proper control over the children, and gain that access to their hearts and affections which he desired, he would do all he could to induce as many as possible to attend his ministrations. What would the Primitive Methodists do? They were poor people; they had no clergyman; they were for the most part served by poor men who had to earn their own living during the days of the week; nor were ninety-nine out of 100 qualified by education to take a class. Consequently, the poor Primitive Methodists would, as a matter of hard fact, be left either without religious instruction at all, or would find their way, as he had no doubt a great majority of them would, into the class of the head teacher. But, on the other hand, suppose that that teacher was, as he might turn out to be, himself a Methodist—there were a great many Methodists in the ranks of elementary teachers, not so many as there were members of the Church of England, but still, a great number—then in the same way as with the teacher of the Church of England, if he or she elected to give Methodist teaching, a great majority of the school, unless the clergyman of the parish was very alert indeed, would find their way into the class taught by the Methodist head teacher. And let it be observed that now the teacher would be under no kind of restriction. If he chose—he did not say he would be wise to do so; on the contrary, he thought he would be very unwise—but if he chose to take this class of Methodists with a large influx of Church of England children, he could instruct them why some of them were Methodists, why they were bound to be Methodists, why their parents were right in going to a Methodist chapel, and why they would be wrong if they went to the Church of England. That kind of teaching, under the proposed scheme, would be available without any kind of restriction of any sort. Downright definite denominational teaching would thus be given to these children. He was bound to confess he did not think that would work. He did not see how it could work. It was put forward in the interests of equality all round, so that no injustice of any sort or kind should be done to any denomination. But he said injustice would be done because the influence of the teacher of the school would predominate over denominational differences, and so, whether he was a Baptist, a Methodist, a Congregationalist, or a member of the Church of England, his influence would undoubtedly prevail over the denominational differences, and absolutely prevent that ideal system of justice which this Amendment sought to carry out. Therefore, as at present advised, it seemed to him the scheme must break down. He did not deny that it had an attraction about it. It certainly attracted a good many behind him, until they were assured by the hon. Member for the University of Oxford that this clause, when amended, would in no way affect Clause 4. The general view of the lobbies, and his hon. friends behind him, was that they were going to get rid of Clause 4 if they could only induce the Government to adopt this Amendment. Clause 4 was not a popular clause. He was perfectly well aware of that, and yet, in his judgment, it, or something like it, was an absolutely essential clause if the Government idea was carried out and Clause 1 remained. He did not see how anyone could claim to be considered a tolerant man who, having insisted on the kind of religious teaching he had already indicated being made a general rule throughout the kingdom, did not at risk of any unpopularity, or in the face of any opposition, do the best he could to secure to those whose conscience would be offended by it the kind of provision contemplated to be established, and maintained in Clause 4. But if they swept away Clause 1, if they abolished Cowper-Temple instruction, if they said secular instruction should be provided by the State with facilities all round, so that anybody might come in between 9 and 9.45, that Roman Catholic priests and nuns might teach Roman Catholicism to the children, that the Church of England minister, the Baptist, the Independent, and all the lot of them might come in, and have their classes from 9 to 9.45, then all go out, and that the secular atmosphere of the school should prevail for the rest of the school hours—that was what was understood as being meant by people inside the House and outside, and they attached value to it, on the ground that in this way they got rid of religious difficulties; and all the outcry of Roman Catholics, of High Church, Low Church, and Nonconformists would be swept away by this admission of all from 9 to 9.45, when they would go out and the rest of the time be devoted to secular instruction. That, in his opinion, was a scheme that would ultimately lead to the entire secularisation of education, and for that reason they objected to it and could not support it. They believed that in adhering to their system of broad fundamental Christian teaching they were doing what was right. The hon. Member for Glamorgan had quoted Dr. Newman, and he might quote another passage which occurred at the close of his famous *Grammar of Assent.* After speaking of a system of Catholic theology, he nevertheless said—

> "Christianity is addressed to men and women whose normal belief was in God and a judgment to come."

Well, their system of religious education was as good as they could make it. It was not compulsory; if with advantage it could be made so he should be in favour of it, but he had no great faith in exercising compulsion on local authorities in matters of detail, because they might easily produce a syllabus they might think insufficient, and they could not contemplate proceeding by *mandamus* to compel the introduction of a Christian doctrine or thesis into that syllabus. Those were the difficulties in the way. They rejoiced in believing that the county councils gave facilities. Where they had not given them it was not because they were irreligious, it was because they had a belief—a mistaken belief perhaps—that the Sunday schools were sufficient to give the religious education for the district. They did not proceed on irreligious grounds, and he believed the result of discussion had been and would be to induce them to proceed to adopt a syllabus that would secure to the children of the district that mode of education which, as Dr. Newman said, prepared the soil for Christian teaching. He believed the Government were doing what he could show from *Hansard* had been the view of more distinguished men than himself on both sides of the House in adhering to this simple fundamental system of religious education; they did their best to make it general, they believed it was in accordance with the wishes of the great body of the people, and therefore he hoped the Committee would by a large majority reject both the Amendment and the Amendment thereto of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said there were portions of the right hon. Gentlemen's speech he did not propose to refer to, they were hardly relevant, and he did not think it would be possible now to discuss details that did not fit into the scheme put forward more than once by his right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham. They would have to be dealt with before the Committee stage came to an end; but he did not see how it was possible to deal with them now, when the question was the Amendment to the Amendment. He did not rise to say a word on the claims or rights of parents or denominations for fuller religious education than could be given under the Cowper-Temple clause, for that would be more relevant to a future Amendment standing in the name of his hon. friend the Member for the University of Oxford. He rose for a very few minutes to deal with the first part of the right hon. Gentleman's speech, for he thought that was of great importance if they were really to understand the course the Government wished to steer in their zealous attempt to deal with religious difficulties. It was clear from what the right hon. Gentleman had said, the Government set themselves to work to discover what kind of religious teaching was most desired in England, and then to endow that in some special manner. [" No."] His speech was capable of no other interpretation, nor would he deny it. It was an amazing principle to come from any part of the House, and certainly from that side of the House. When was it a function of the Radical Party to consider the religion they thought best for their countrymen and then to throw obstacles in the way of every other religion and give a special endowment out of the public funds for the propagation of this new scheme of theirs? He believed the right hon. Gentleman was quite right in saying that no syllabus could come up to the views of the vast number of British parents; but were they really to understand that by some kind of intuition the Government had discovered what was the view of the ordinary parent, and intended to say henceforth "this is the religion to be taught in our schools, and this is the religion we will endow out of the rates"? It seemed to him that that was an extraordinary novelty in their political theories. He had always understood that nothing could be more hostile to traditional Radical opinion than a scheme of the kind; it seemed in deliberate contradiction to doctrines they had closely held. Let them assume that this extraordinary novelty was to become the guiding principle, then he asked what provision was there in the Bill to carry it out logically, consistently, and effectively? The right hon. Gentleman had said he would like to enforce some syllabus on the local authorities; would he like to go over each syllabus, add to and amend here and there, and gradually produce something the Government thought should be endowed as the ideal system of religious education, and enforce it by law on all local authorities? That was what he would like, but he shrank from it. He thought that local authorities would probably like to manage their own affairs in their own way, and that was the view of some hon. Gentlemen behind him; they thought it was an inalienable right of local authorities to settle the religious education to be given in their schools. Then why did they eliminate the right to give denominational teaching? By what process could they justify themselves by saying local authorities might range over the whole scale between reading without explanation a fragment of Scripture taken at random—["No!"] Might that not be done? Of course it might. There was liberty to range between the teaching of no religion at all, or the teaching he had described, reading without explanation a passage from Scripture taken at random, to the other end of the scale—the dogmatic teaching of the Free Church catechism. A vast field was open, but going beyond that catechism was prohibited. It was a very strange scheme; but it was not its strangeness or want of logic that he now wanted to press upon the Committee. If the Government were in earnest—as he was sure the right hon. Gentleman was—in what he said about the need for religious education, the need for making it a genuine thing in every school, then he was certain that it was the primary duty of the Government and the Committee to see that Cowper-Templeism was eliminated, and the lower end of the scale cut off. It was their plain duty, but they endowed a certain denomination.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): You did it in 1902.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he was quite ready to defend the Bill of 1902, but he was anxious to press on the Government this particular point; and he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not interrupt him. The Government came forward with this earnest expression of a desire that they should have full Cowper-Templeism taught, and nothing else, in all our elementary schools. Surely the least they could do if that was their theory was to try and carry it into effect. In 1902, as the hon. Gentleman had forced him to speak of that, they kept all the anomalies inevitably incident to the Cowper-Temple system and to the single school area and the denominational system. They kept them side by side, because they found them there, and it was impossible at that time to deal with both. All he could do was to relieve the Nonconformists from a great many of the disabilities under which they were then labouring, and no Nonconformist who had ever read the Bill of 1902 had ever dared to contradict that statement. Now the Government were going to get rid of denominationalism and to substitute universal Cowper-Templeism, on the ground that they believed that Cowper-Temple religion was the religion which the country desired, and which, therefore, ought to be endowed out of the rates. Well, let them make Cowper-Templeism a reality and make it secure. That was the least they could ask of the Government. Let them make it obligatory on the local authorities to teach religion, and, above all, make it obligatory on the local authorities to select their teachers so that they would be able to carry out what the Minister for Education now told them, and he was sure he meant it, was one of the most fundamental and necessary parts of religion. Was there a word in this Bill which suggested a preference on the part of the Government for Cowper-Temple teaching? They might have such teaching as was given in the Free Church Catechism. Was there a word in the Bill which suggested their desire to see that kind of religion given in our schools, or a word that suggested that the teachers who had got to teach it, and who had to be paid out of the rates for teaching it, were to be competent? There was not a word;

and until he saw some conformity between the Bill which the right hon. Gentleman had brought forward and the speech which he had just delivered, he would be forced to the conclusion that, while the right hon. Gentleman was really most earnestly desirous to see full religious instruction given in our schools, he was so bound by the pressure of certain sections of Nonconformist opinion behind him, he felt himself so hampered by pledges, misunderstood, given at the election, that he was literally asking the Committee to pass a Bill for the purpose of seeing that the children of this country got the sort of religious teaching which he, at all events, desired, and yet did not put a single security in the Bill either that the religion taught should be of the kind he desired or that those who taught it should be able to teach it. He would vote without misgiving against the secular proposal so ably supported by the hon. Member for Leicester a few days ago; but if he was asked whether the alternative proposed by the Government was a satisfactory alternative, he said it was not, for two reasons. In the first place, it was grossly unjust to those who did not accept Cowper-Templeism; and, in the second place, it was a gross, though unintentional, fraud on those who did accept it, but thought this Bill gave some security, either in the character of the teaching given under it or of the teachers who had to give it, that the rising generation of the country should really learn that fundamental Christianity of which the right hon. Gentleman had spoken so eloquently. His speech gave him a very high idea of his aspirations. It also gave him a very painful sense of the discordance, the, as he thought, irremediable discordance, which existed between the ideals he had laid before the Committee and the Bill in which he had attempted to embody them.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said the speech of the President of the Board of Education must have been a disappointing one to many supporters of the Government. Only recently the Prime Minister had declared that in his opinion 90 per cent. of the Liberal Party were in favour of secular education in the schools, and, if that were so, surely it was but reasonable to expect that the Government would have allowed its followers a free hand in regard to this most important matter. Two sets of people had announced their intention of voting against the Amendment of the hon. Member for Burnley—firstly the Churchmen, who believed in the State endowment of religion; and secondly, the Nonconformists, who on the political platform denounced a State Church, but in Parliament declared for the endowment of religion in the schools. If it was an injustice to endow a Church for teaching religion to grown-up people, it must be more of an injustice, and much more dangerous to the freedom of conscience, to endow schools for the teaching of dogmas to children. It was not thus that the old Nonconformists fought their battles. The leaders of the Nonconformist party would have considerable difficuty in convincing the public of their sincerity when they claimed disestablishment, if they walked into the lobbies to support the establishment of religion in schools. In the past few years they had heard a great deal about the injustice perpetrated by one section of the Christian Church or another in regard to religious instruction. It was to him a matter of surprise that supporters of the Government could not recognise the fact that the whole of the religious difficulty had its root in simple Bible teaching in the schools. So long as it was claimed that Bible instruction should be given in schools they were bound under every principle of equality to make provision for every sect which desired to put its own interpretation upon what was being taught. Those were the two logical positions—either a secular system of instruction or an all-round system of religious instruction. Between those two there was no halting place. There were two main arguments against the Amendment of the hon. Member for Burnley. The first was that the parents wanted religious instruction given to the children, and the second was that if that instruction was not given in the schools the children would not receive it at all. How did any Member of the Committee know that the parents wanted religious instruction given in the schools? By what authority did they speak? It was said that for thirty years it had been the school board system. The school boards had power to abolish religious instruction, but the parents of the children did not take the trouble to abolish it. The indifferentism in regard to religious matters was such that people did not trouble one way or the other. Much of that indifferentism was to be traced to the slipshod manner in which religious instruction was given in the schools. But they had one means of ascertaining working-class opinion on this matter. The Trades Union Congress represented 2,000,000 organised workers. Year after year that assembly had declared for a secular system. The men and women who went there were of all creeds and of no creed, but they believed supremely in education and they desired this bone of contention to be taken away so that education might be given for its own sake, and to improve and strengthen it. He held in his hand a copy of the present issue of *Christian World* which contained a report of an interview with Dr. Rintoul, who was in this country on a visit from Australia, and who occupied a high position in the religious life of the colony of Victoria. Dr. Rintoul told them that since 1873 they had had in that colony a system of free, compulsory, and secular education; and the advocates of the denominational system had charged that system with being Godless, Christless, pagan, and all the rest of it. A conference was called of religious teachers to devise some form of religious instruction to be given in the schools, and the Baptists, Wesleyans, and Anglicans agreed to an emasculated form of the Catechism in order to obtain some common finality. The matter was referred to a referendum of the parents, but after a quarter of a century's experience of free, compulsory, and secular education, the vast majority of the parents preferred to remain under that system. He ventured to say that could a referendum be taken in this country as it was in Australia, it would show an overwhelming majority in favour of the secular solution. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No!"] Did any of those hon. Gentlemen who said "No" inform their constituents at the last election that when the Education Act was being amended they were going to support Bible teaching in one set of schools, and dogmatic teaching in another set of schools? He could understand a few hon. Gentlemen taking exception to that statement; and he used the remark as a tribute to the conscientious way in which they held their religious beliefs; but the demand generally was for public control of the schools, and few of the electors who voted on the education question thought that by so doing they were voting for a compromise of this kind. If it were true that the parents of the children were not fit to give religious instruction to their children, let it not be forgotten that for the past three generations these parents had had the benefit of the old religious instruction and that in the olden days parents were fitted to give that religious instruction. If they were less fitted now, it was partly because of the conditions under which they lived, and partly because of the secularising of religion, which was going on in our public schools and elsewhere. They had better be honest and not continue the pretence of indoctrinating our children with a system of religious dogma, whether called by the name of unsectarianism, or by any other name, which produced such poor results in after-life. The child should be trained according to its intellectual development, taught the simple duties of kindness, love of truth, honour, justice and righteousness. Those things should be taught for their own sake, but no one should ask for them to be enforced by bringing in some extraneous authority which the children could not understand. The training of our children should be on a foundation on which in after years a solid spiritual structure could be raised if the children felt so minded. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for India had pointed out that the Education Bill of 1870, because it was a compromise, had perpetuated the religious difficulty, and that it had rendered the solution of that difficulty still more difficult. Who would say that the present Bill was not following in the same course? If hon. Gentlemen placed such value on religious instruction, why leave it to be the sport of Party politics at municipal elections? Let Clause 4 be made mandatory and not optional, and then the question would be settled and Party strife avoided. But the Minister for Education said "No." The right hon. Gentleman dared not come to this Committee and make a proposal of that kind. He respectfully submitted that it was not courageous to transfer from this House to the local authorities a task which they themselves dared not face. When education was administered in the large towns by an *ad hoc* authority, the religious difficulty could be left to the school boards; but now at every municipal election the issues of sanitation, drainage, and good local government generally would be subordinated to the question of who was to rule the schools. He hoped that if this Amendment were accepted some means would be adopted whereby our municipal life would not be poisoned by having religious strifes brought into it which formerly had no existence. He would say nothing on the Amendment of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham. He did not think it was practicable. He did not think it was desirable to divide the children in the schools into pens for instruction. They should be taught about God and the brotherhood of the race, and that could only be exemplified by meeting in the same room and with the same forms of instruction. Otherwise more harm than good would be done to religion. On the other hand, he should vote for the hon. Gentleman opposite. The time would come, however, if this Amendment were rejected, when this House would again be faced by the difficulty with which it was now faced. If this question had been grappled with in 1870 our educational system would have been at a different point to-day from what it was. Let them not leave the same legacy to their successors, but let them act courageously and do their duty according to their consciences.

Mr. BLAKE (Longford, S.) said that the final principle of the Bill was to be found in Clause 4, and if the Irish Members only knew the final position in which Clause 4 would stand they would be in a better position as to how they should vote on these competing Amendments on Clause 1. The Irish Members looked on this Amendment according to principles. The view they represented was the general principle in favour of religious instruction being given right through the school hours as being the most important part of the education provided for the children. They found that the Amendment of the hon. Member for Burnley was, according to their view, objectionable, and therefore should be voted against by the Irish Party. On the other hand, the Amendment of the right hon. the Member for West Birmingham was objectionable because it provided that while religious instruction should be given during school hours it should not be given at the expense of the State. So long as the general principle of giving religious instruction during school hours was being challenged as it was being challenged by the Amendment, and they were left in doubt as to its fate and fortune under Clause 4, they should not vote for any Amendment which would fetter the freedom which they claimed. As announced previously, the National Party would vote for the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, because it affirmed the principle of giving all religious instruction in school hours, but they had an equally firm intention of voting against the main Amendment.

Mr. Birrell rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided: Ayes, 366; Noes, 179. (Division List No. 98.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agar-Robartes, Hon. T. C.
Agnew, George William
Mr. Keir Hardie.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)

Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc,Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,John Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'r H'ml'tsS.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm (Banff)
Black, Arthur W.(Bdfordshire
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A.C.F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James.
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce,Rt. Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce,J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thoma Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,Sir Wm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Davd (Montgomery Co .
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)

Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner,Col. Alan (Hereford,S,
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn.Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derby shire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon

Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,Hugh Cecil(St Pancras,E)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex, Harwich
Lever,W.,H.(Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.R.(Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster

Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W.D. (Colchester)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E.(Edinburgh,Central
Price, Robert J. (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B.(Bradford,E
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mptn
Richardson, A.
Rickett J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.

Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, H. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Scott,A..H.(AshtonunderLyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw,Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H (Somerset,E.
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry

Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W. D. (Southampton)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W.(Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W.(Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse,Lord (Norfolk,Mid.
Wood, T, M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir Wm. Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.HughO.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, RtHn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J(City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy(Winchester)
Barrie, H. T.(Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive

Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. HonVictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J(Birm.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, Sir Edw. (City London)
Coates,E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down,E
Craik, Sir Henry

Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway)
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert(Lanark Govan)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V.(Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.

Halpin, J.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir H. Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt. Hn J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. (Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 367; Noes, 172. (Division List No. 99.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agar-Robartes, Hon. T. C.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, J. Emmott (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbour'e)
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp't)
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon, John.
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John

Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, R. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, D. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford.)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook

Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (South'mpt'
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J T. (Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, Sir Edward (City London
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galw'y
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Halpin, J.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'd'
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lamont, Norman
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesh'm
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip

O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker,Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H. Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverp'l, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley,Hon.Arthur(Ormskirk)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot,Rt.Hn. J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Wilson,A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Mr. BIRRELL claimed, "That the Main Question be now put."

Main Question put accordingly, "That the words 'And unless provision is made that religious instruction shall not be given therein during school hours, nor at the public expense' be there added."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 63; Noes, 477. (Division List No. 100.)

AYES.

Atherley-Jones, L.
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beaumont,Hubert(Eastbourne
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Brace, William
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Fenwick, Charles
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hart-Davies, T.
Herbert,Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Hodge, John
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jowett, F. W.
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras,E
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
M'Callum, John M.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Shackleton, David James
Snowden, P.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr
Thorne, William
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wardle, George J.
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Maddison and Mr. Arthur Henderson.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agar-Robartes, Hon. T. C.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.Hugh O
Ashley, W. W.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt. Hn. HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. SirH
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A J (City Lond)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Banner, John S. Harmood
Baring, Godfrey (Ise of Wight)
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, JohnWilliams(Devonprt
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black,ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)

Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, Rt. Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Buxton, Rt.Hn.Sydney Chas.
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt.Hn. RichardKnigh
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. VictorC.W
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Clarke, Sir Edward (City Lond.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Coats, Sir T.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett,CH (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, D. (Montgomery Co.)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H. (S. Pancras,N
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dobson, Thomas W.

Dodd, W. H.
Dolan Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Duncan, Robert (Lanark,Gvn.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber George Denison, (York)
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford,S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Bibb, James (Harrow)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt Hn Herbert John
Gooch, George Peabody
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haddock, George R.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashf'd
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hedges, A. Paget

Helme, Norval Watson
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson,J.M. (Aberd'n, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury,SEdm'ds
Higham, John Sharp
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman (SomersetN
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hunt, Rowland
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col W
Keswick, William
Killbride, Denis
Kincaid, Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
King, Sir HenrySeymour(Hull)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, Arthur H.(Hants.,Farem
Leese,SirJoseph F (Accrington
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Liddell, Henry
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lockwood,Rt.Hn. Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S;
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Arthur, William
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Crae, George

M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Regniald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marks, H. H. (Kint)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nichols, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal (Tipperary, Md
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parkes, Ebenezer
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W.D (Colchester)
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darlingt'n
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J Wynford (Pembr'ke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert Jn. (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E.B.(Bradford,E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Robertson,Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson,SirGScott(Bradford
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rothschild, Hon. LionelWalter
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith, AbelH.(Hertford, East)
Smith,F.E. (Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Talbot, Rt. HnJG(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxeth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, JWH (Somerset, E
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Valentia, Viscount
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E.Howard
Vivian, Henry
Walker, Col. W.H.(Lancashire)
Wallace. Robert
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampton
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, Hn. C.H.W.(Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord(Norfolk, Mid
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,Sir JT (Huddersf'd
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease

MR. LUTTRELL (Devonshire, Tavistock) moved an Amendment to the effect that a school recognised as a public elementary school, should be carried on in premises owned by the local authority. He took it that it was only fair that the public should have the complete ownership of the public elementary schools. If the local authority had not complete ownership they would not have a free hand, for they would have to go to the owners cap in hand and ask for certain conditions. In many cases the conditions would be of a humiliating character, and even injurious to the conscience of the parents. If they did not own the schools they would have to make arrangements of a temporary nature, and the making of temporary arrangements was simply temporising with a great subject. They would put the local education authority in the position of paying guests; they would be there on condition that they behaved themselves. If they did not own they must hire the schools. What would be thought of a proposal to hire barracks for our soldiers, or a temporary lodging for our King? Was the owning of the schools objected to on the ground that it wouldbe confiscation? It was not proposed to confiscate property. It was proposed that the schools should be purchased where that could be done. A fair price would be offered, and if the local authority could not buy the present schools, they should build new schools. The only other objection he could imagine was that of cost. If the proposal were carried out, might it not be possible to purchase or build schools at a price not much greater than they would have to pay for the use of other people's property? The objection of cost was not a very great one, and ought not to be considered by this wealthy country. This country ought not to plead poverty on this question of education. From the seeds sown in our schools we were to-day reaping a rich harvest in the improvement of temperance, in the diminution of crime, and in the standard of morality and general prosperity. He hoped that ultimately the country would be able to say that its public schools were national or semi-national property.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, at end to add the words 'and carried on in premises owned by that authority.'"—(*Mr. Luttrell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.) said the alternative suggested by his hon. friend was a very attractive one. It would be an exceedingly nice thing that the State should own all the schools in which the great work of education was carried on. But when they considered that there were 14,000 schools and that the circumstances under which they existed varied, he thought everyone would be disposed to agree with him that the greater freedom left under the Bill as it stood was much more desirable than the alternative suggested by his hon. friend. There were many objections to the course suggested. First of all the objection in regard to cost was a serious one. His hon. friend swept that somewhat lightly aside. The hon. Member asked what would be thought if we were to hire barracks for our soldiers. His answer to that was—Why not? Sometimes the Government hired houses. There was another point which the hon. Member did not seem to have considered, namely, that many schools were handed over free, or almost free, to the local authority. It would be impossible to accept such gifts if they were to adopt such a stringent proposal as this. It was desirable to give the local authorities the greater freedom which they would have under the clause as it stood to make the best arrangements they could. He hoped his hon. friend would not press the Amendment.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) supported the Amendment. He thought it would in the long run be cheaper to build new schools than to take over old schools. He had had some experience of taking over voluntary schools, and as a rule large sums of money had to be spent in putting them into a satisfactory condition. It would not be difficult to show that building would be cheaper and much more efficient. There were many cases where the owners were willing to sell, and where, therefore, there would be no need to build. In other cases, say in the rural districts, not more than £10 per head need be spent in providing the school accommodation necessary. A school for a 100 children would only cost £1,000, and the annual charge to pay interest and also to pay off the loan in a period of sixty years would be about £35 or £40. Considering the condition of some of the present schools, it could easily be seen that rent and repairs would amount to more than the sum required to pay the interest and principal on a new building. He thought that the £1,000,000 to be placed in the hands of the Board of Education by this Bill would be amply sufficient to pay principal and interest on new schools in all our parishes. If that step were taken they would have the children properly housed.

Mr. LUTTRELL said that after the statement of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education he would not put the Committee to the trouble of going to a division.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON said that the Amendment standing in his name was intended to raise the question as to an assurance that some provision should be made for the religious instruction of children during school hours and, as far as possible, in accordance with the wishes of the parents. He thought that any one who had read the Bill must be struck with the meagreness of the provision made for all classes of religious teaching except that under Clause 4 and the particular kind of religion known as Cowper-Temple teaching. He wanted to be sure that a school should not be recognised unless, either by the by-laws of the local authority or in compliance with provisions of the Code, provision was made for religious instruction of some sort, or if possible of a variety of sorts. If the Amendment was carried the Board of Education would not approve of by-laws which did not make the provision required, or would insert requirements in the Code. He desired that one way or the other

Mr. George White.

the meagre provisions made should be supplemented by something of the sort embodied in the Amendment. The provisions for religious teaching other than Cowper-Temple teaching depended entirely, apart from Clause 4, on the arrangements made by the local authority with the managers. The managers did not contract with the local authority on equal terms. It was only in certain schools, in the transferred voluntary schools, and at certain times and under certain very distinct conditions, that special religious teaching was admitted at all. He asked that in all cases this should be admissible, and, beyond that, that in all cases the wishes of the parents, so far as was possible and reasonable, should be considered. Further, he asked that this religious instruction should be assured in the hours of compulsory attendance, in order that that close connection or pracctial identity of religion with education which he thought the Government, as interpreted by the Parliamentary Secretary the other night, certainly by all on his side of the House, and, as he believed, by the great majority in the country, had at heart might be secured. If religion and education were to be brought together as part of one general scheme then the scope of religious teaching should be enlarged. They were told that that was practically impossible, but he doubted whether that was so. They had had from the hon. Member for East Mayo an account of the system in New South Wales, by which there was a general admission of all forms of religious instruction in the schools without any inconvenience. The President of the Board of Education had given an extreme instance of a rural school in which there were a certain number of Church of England children, of Baptists, of Wesleyans, of Roman Catholics, and some whose parents did not want religious instruction at all, and had pointed out the difficulties that might arise if all these children wanted their religious teaching at the same time and in the same place. Of course, it was always possible to reduce these things to an absurdity. The difficulties were not so great as the right hon. Gentleman supposed. Some of the children might perfectly well get their religious instruction during school hours outside the school under new by-laws, if parents specially requested that their children should be allowed to be absent from school for religious instruction to be given elsewhere. From personal knowledge he knew of a country school in a single school area with an average attendance of 80 to 100, among whom were ten or twelve Roman Catholics. But these latter, during the religious teaching, went to their priest at the commencement of the school day and came to school in time for secular instruction. He believed that sort of arrangement would be made in many cases. These arrangements were matters of convenience. They had to meet the difficulty of different denominations wanting different sorts of religious teaching; but the right hon. Gentleman had given up in despair the attempt to accommodate himself to the various needs, and said they must all have one thing—Cowper-Temple teaching, or nothing at all. That was a counsel of despair. It was only in a limited number of single school areas that the difficulty arose in a serious form. In these cases the difficulty might be met; and if it was not met by the method he suggested of endeavouring to accommodate, as far as possible, the teaching to the requirements of the parents, it certainly would not be met by the scheme of the Government, which reduced everybody to one common level and offered only one sort of teaching, which was distasteful to many and even repugnant to some.

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down, by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

But the said Private Business having been deferred till to-morrow, the proceedings on the Education (England and Wales) Bill were resumed.

[Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

Sir **WILLIAM ANSON**, continuing his speech, submitted that the wishes of the parents in the matter of religious instruction should be consulted. The Act of 1902 made some effort to meet the wishes of the parent, and he thought that those efforts might be carried further, and that in all cases and in all schools the parents' wishes should be respected. He denied that the parents were indifferent. On the contrary, they cared a great deal about it, and desired in nearly all cases that religious instruction should be provided of one sort or another, whether undenominational or denominational, and, if the latter, then they desired that it should be of a particular character. Now in the Bill there was no security, for the Government were not prepared to insist that the local authority should furnish any security that any religious teaching should be given. They had neither security nor freedom, for the Government denied them the power of introducing the sort of religious teaching which the parent might want. Therefore it was he proposed the present Amendment, which would give to the parent throughout the country not only security that some religious instruction should be given, but the freedom of asking and obtaining the sort of religious teaching which they believed was essential to their children's welfare in this world and the next.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, at the end, to add the words 'and unless provision is made by by-law or otherwise for the religious instruction during school hours of the children attending the school in accordance, so far as possible, with the wishes of their parents, whether such instruction be or be not permitted under Section 14 of The Elementary Education Act, 1870.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. **LOUGH** said the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, in moving his Amendment, alluded to some remarks which his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education had let fall at an earlier period in the afternoon. That showed the difficulty of saying anything new upon this subject, as they had gone over the same ground half a dozen times. In the very next sentence the hon. Gentleman alluded to a reply which his right hon. friend had already given on the subject of the present Amendment. The idea of consulting the parents was very attractive, but it was also very difficult to give effect to. There were no means of taking the opinion of the parents in a regular and organised way, and it was no part of our present electoral system. So far from being meagre, he contended that the Bill was full of provision for religious instruction. In the first place, it provided for the system known as Cowper-Temple instruction. That system was going on in 9,000 of the largest schools in the country, and was being taught to 3,000,000 of children, or more than half of the children attending the elementary schools of the country. The system was giving the greatest satisfaction. No complaint was ever made in regard to it. The more the syllabuses were discussed the more they could understand the great satisfaction with which the system was viewed in all parts of the country. What would the Amendment do? It would open up the religious difficulty in all the 9,000 schools in which no religious difficulty existed at present. Why not let well alone? Why disturb the condition of things in those 9,000 schools in which a majority of the children were being taught? He thought that to do so would rather increase their difficulty. The hon. Gentleman had alluded to a compulsory by-law for which he himself was partly responsible, which allowed children to be withdrawn from the schools, whose parents desired to give them special religious instruction. He did not follow the hon. Gentleman's argument, but he thought that he quoted it as an example of the system which he desired to set up by his Amendment.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he did not do that, but he alluded to the by-law as one way out of the difficulty suggested by the President of the Board of Education, when he took the case of a school, in which there were children belonging to four or five denominations, each one of whom might want to be instructed in religion in the same room at the same time. He said that the by-law had given to them the means by which they might get their instruction elsewhere.

Mr. LOUGH said it seemed to him rather striking that that illustration should be drawn. In the case put before the Committee it was suggested that in a school there might be twelve or fourteen Roman Catholic children and those children could get at another place the religious instruction they desired to have. That regulation already existed. The more they considered the difficulty of carrying out proposals of this kind the more they were satisfied that they would be utterly impracticable and would cause a great breach in the educational system at present proposed. What were the facilities given under the Bill? He had already alluded to the 9,000 schools which contained more than half the children in which that religious instruction was given to compete satisfaction. Then there were the facilities given under Clause 3, by which religious instruction of a special character could be given on two days a week in the transferred schools, and then there were the facilities given under Clause 4 to minorities which desired them. He thought any hon. Gentleman with an independent mind upon this matter would see from those provisions that the Government had approached this difficult question in a spirit of the greatest conciliation, and that an attempt had been made to arrive at a uniform system which would meet the requirements of different localities.

Sir FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said it was admitted by many that the syllabuses mentioned by the hon. Gentleman could be used, and so far as they were known, many of them were, for the most part, admired. What he desired to know was how far they were carried out and how far, for example, the syllabuses adopted by the authority were not practically abolished by the same authority after the next election and so allowed to fall into desuetude and to become no longer a living factor in the religious instruction in the schools. Another question he desired to put was this. A Return had been prepared in another place at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. When the Return proposed by him was first moved for, there was a question in which the authority was asked how far the syllabuses were carried out. That portion of the Return applied for by the right rev. Prelate was not conceded, and that which he (Sir F. Powell) and many of his friends believed to be the most important part of the case remained in its original and primeval obscurity. It would be a matter of considerable satisfaction to the Committee to learn that these syllabuses were carried out. He thought an Amendment on the lines now suggested was really desirable in order to secure religious instruction during school hours. The best that could be said of the Bill at present was that it did not altogether forbid religious instruction, and he greatly desired that it should be supported by more emphatic sanction. His right hon. friend the late Secretary to the Board of Education had introduced a new by-law. He had done so with some hesitation and with some misgiving, and had said that that by-law would be most carefully watched in its operation, and he had rather indicated that if it did not work as he intended it should, in favour of religious education in accordance with liberty, he was determined that it should be withdrawn. The object of his hon. friend was to secure that during school hours there should be some religious instruction, and that was the purport of his present Amendment. With that view he most heartily agreed. He was sure that the argument of his hon. friend was one of very great force and he hoped it would sooner or later have the approbation of Parliament. The Amendment introduced the parents. If it were wise for the Government to introduce the parents in Clause 4 it could not be an error to introduce them in this clause. He quite agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education that they should not look too much to foreign countries. That was a very wise observation. But still they sometimes learnt from what was going on abroad. At the present time a most important statute was passing through the Parliament of Prussia upon this very subject, and if the report in *The Times* was at all correct it would be found that even in that somewhat autocratic country some attention was sometimes paid to parents. This Amendment enshrined some most important principles, which he hoped in some form or other would be adopted in our legislation.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) said the Amendment embodied his own remedy. He fought in 1897 a London school board election on a similar question. He believed this was the most practical remedy that could be proposed for the religious difficulty. It was put forward by the hon. Baronet the Member for the Oxford University as a constructive policy. It was met very airily by the Secretary to the Board of Education, who brushed it aside as perfectly impracticable and quite out of the question. The hon. Gentleman in his speech certainly did not bring any real argument to shew why it was impracticable and impossible. Its merits, among others, were that it embraced all schools, treated everybody equally fairly, and gave freedom of religious teaching to all denominations. He was unable to see why they should not in the first place ask the parents whether they desired both undenominational and denominational teaching for their children; in the second, whether they preferred denominational teaching only; in the third, whether they preferred undenominational teaching only; and in the fourth whether they would rather have no religious teaching at all. It enabled parents to have all those alternatives. What would actually occur in practice would probably be that there would be special teaching for Roman Catholic children, special teaching for a good many Anglican children, probably undenominational teaching for a number of other children all classed together, because the Nonconformists would all accept the Cowper-Temple Clause, and in the last place there would be a certain number of children withdrawn altogether because their parents preferred them to have secular instruction instead. He did not know whether the hon. Gentleman had ever studied the industrial schools of the country. If he had not and if he would look at the Act of 1866, he would see that the system now advocated was practically the same as that at present in use in the industrial schools. He had never heard that there was any difficulty in carrying it out there. It had worked very well for the last forty years, and he could not see why it should not continue to work satisfactorily. He would like to examine, too, more fully, what went on in our military and naval schools. He was given to understand that there also in the case of Roman Catholic children the priests came in specially to give religious teaching and the system worked without difficulty. If they turned away from home, as the hon. Baronet the Member for Wigan had just pointed out, in Prussia the same system also obtained under the Prussian law—

> "Special provision for religious instruction must be made if there is a minority of at least twelve pupils. The expense falls primarily on the commune, but in cases of necessity State aid is given."

He had never heard, and he had tried to make inquiry, that the system worked badly in Prussia. Again he found in the law of Belgium—

> "The religious instruction given is that of the denomination to which the majority of the pupils belong. If the number of the minority reaches twenty in schools with one master, or forty in schools with two or more masters, religious instruction will be given at the school; if the numbers fall below these limits, the religious instruction cannot be given at the school, but the children must have every opportunity of receiving instruction in a place chosen by their minister."

He failed, therefore, to understand why the Government should airily brush aside this suggestion, found so practicable abroad, as absolutely impracticable here. New South Wales had been mentioned. The New South Wales Act was more specific than the cases to which he referred. Section 7 of the New South Wales Public Instruction Act, 1880, said—

> "In all schools under this Act the teaching shall be strictly nonsectarian, but the words 'secular instruction' shall be held to include general religious teaching as distinguished from dogmatical or polemical theology."

Section 17 stated—

> "In every public school four hours during each school day shall be devoted to secular instruction exclusively,"

which by Section 7 includes general religious teaching—

> "And a portion of each day, not more than one hour, shall be set apart when the children of any one religious persuasion may be instructed by the clergyman or other religious teacher of such persuasion, but in all cases the pupils receiving such religious instruction shall be separated from the other pupils of the schools."

There, again, was a remedy in actual practice. It was perfectly clear that in New South Wales the children could have secular instruction, which included general religious teaching, and those parents who desired something more special for their children were able to have at the hands of the minister or other teacher of their particular persuasion the special religious teaching which they wished. If the Government were to accept his hon. friend's Amendment they would not be making a new experiment at all, because it had been tried in England in industrial schools and to some extent in the Army and Navy schools, and on the Continent and in our Colonies. He wished the Government would not set themselves so deliberately against this proposal. They had before their eyes cases where it had succeeded, and if they would only give it a trial they would at any rate be able to see if it could not succeed in the present instance. For the moment he would not plead for more than that. If it were a miserable failure, a different law could be enacted. But he believed the chances were that if those who were chiefly concerned with the management and discipline of the schools set themselves to establish a system of this character, in nearly every locality it would work. It would be found that in some localities the Anglicans would require special religious teaching, but some would not, and the Roman Catholics would require special religious teaching; whereas very likely the Wesleyans, the Congregationalists, the Presbyterians, and the Baptists would all agree upon the Cowper-Temple teaching, but if these denominations desired more specific teaching they would all agree upon the same teacher or minister to give it. He did not speak merely from hypothesis. This arrangement really went on in Western Australia. There these four different denominations agreed upon the same delegate to enter the school and teach the special teaching that was required, and the system worked perfectly well in that Colony. He thought all these definite instances were sufficient to show that there was a good case for the constructive remedy which the Opposition were now putting forward, and he entreated the Government to consider his hon. friend's Amendment most carefully and without summarily prejudging the issue.

MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.) said he was struck with two arguments put put forward by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education. The first was as to the impracticability of ascertaining the wishes of the parents in regard to the religious instruction of their children. He thought the hon. Gentleman did the Government a wrong in attributing to them such sterile mindedness and such impotence. He thought he could suggest to the hon. Gentleman a way of ascertaining the wishes of the parents right away. The way was simple: it was to ask them. He thought that in the course of three days he could himself ascertain the wishes of every parent in any school in the country by sending a circular round. The other point he was struck with in the hon. Gentleman's speech was when he spoke of the great satisfaction with which the Cowper-Temple clause and its working was regarded throughout the country. The hon. Gentleman would have been more correct if he had said that from half, or somewhat less than half, the country, some very noisy complaints had arisen, and he might have added that from the other half, or somewhat more than half, no complaints whatever had arisen, or, at any rate, they had not come to his ears. He was very glad that this Amendment had been introduced thus early in the first clause. If it could be accepted it would very much alter his attitude to the Bill. It would altogether mitigate his opposition to it. It would do so because it saved religious education. He thought the fact that the Government had introduced Clause 6 showed that their heart was with the secularists. He himself had an Amendment on the Paper which he liked better than that of his hon. friend, but he supported his hon. friend's Amendment with all his heart. It was very admirable so far as it went. There was in it a plea for freedom for parents, for teachers, and for denominations. It was very much needed to remove a great blot, a great injustice, a great scandal from the pages of the Bill. It would also help to clear the consciences of many Dissenters who—as he knew from conversations with them—were very much perplexed and deeply troubled. There must be religious teaching, and they had got to unite religious teaching or reconcile universal religious teaching with universal religious equality and religious freedom. That, he took it, was the problem. They could not get this along the lines of the Bill. They could not get it by giving a paramount position to any one religion. They could not get it by securing to the Roman Catholics or the Jews all their schools, and by abolishing 80 per cent. of the Church of England schools. They could only get it by treating all alike. The Amendment recognised the denominational structure of English society. It recognised the religious divisions of the community. It recognised, as a Roman Catholic might say, that they were living a in condition of conscientious schism. It founded itself on the right of the parent which this Bill, except in Clause 4, almost completely ignored. He was sorry to hear hints that poor parents did not care much for religious teaching or about its kind or quality. His own experience, which was a practical one extending over thirty years, was that they cared every bit as much about it as the rich and the well-informed. One reason why he liked this Amendment so much was that by respecting the wishes of the parents it would inevitably tend to aggregate the children of the same persuasion in the same school, so that in it there should be one faith, one atmosphere, one teacher, and that was the ideal school. He earnestly desired an end to these religious squabbles, and there would be an approach to that end if in educational matters the religious opinions of parents were consulted. It was on this ground that he asked for support of the Amendment.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education stated that Cowper-Temple instruction was now practically universally given, and was giving universal satisfaction. He wished to point out that under seventy-one school boards in three counties he found there were six in which Bible teaching was given, in thirteen the Bible was read with a few comments, in thirty the Bible was read without any note or comment, and in twenty-two the Bible was not even read at all.

Under none of those seventy school boards was a single test of religious knowledge instituted.

MR. BIRRELL: What are the names of the counties?

MR. CARLILE: Anglesey, Carnarvonshire, and Merionethshire.

DR. MACNAMARA: What is the date?

MR. CARLILE replied that the date was 1895. In those three counties there were 126 schools, and ten of them had Bible teaching, twenty-six Bible reading with a few comments, sixty gave Bible reading without any note or comment, and in thirty schools no Bible was admitted. And so it would be seen that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, when he stated that Cowper-Temple instruction was universally taught, failed to convey the actual facts of the case. He supported the Amendment because it embodied those four principles which they had constantly advocated, and should continue to struggle for until they had secured them in perpetuity for their children. Under a number of school boards no religious instruction was given, and they were thus placing in the minds of the children a power and a weapon which it was very wrong to place within their control without giving them the power of guiding and using that power, which alone could prevent them becoming a source of danger to themselves and the community in which they lived. They claimed that religious instruction should be given, and that any education worthy of the name must appeal to the three-fold nature of the child. There was the physical, the mental, and the spiritual nature of the child, and any education which failed to appeal alike to all those spheres was deficient. Any education which did not appeal to the highest principles in the child lacked the qualification that education ought to have. He utterly failed to see how, by the moral instruction to which the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education had referred, he was going to bring about the state of things which he had described. A certain book of "Moral Maxims" was one of the books used as a substitute for religious instruction out of the Bible in one of our large boroughs. The hon. Member for North Camberwell knew the book, because he had been an assistant master under a board where this book was used, and where it was still used. No religious instruction was given in that borough. When this book of moral maxims was handed to the teacher, three lines of a note which the author had inserted on the first page were ruled out. The lines crossed out were—

> "In using this manual, teachers are recommended as far as possible to enforce and illustrate the lessons by suitable references to Holy Scripture."

When that volume of moral maxims was handed to the teacher, the one instruction of any value was lined through in ink, and the teachers were not allowed to illustrate in any sense any of the moral maxims in the book by a reference to Holy Scripture, and there were 8,000 children in the schools in that borough. The book opened with a chapter upon honesty, and contained the statement that "Honesty was the best policy." So it is, but the man who acts only on that principle is a rogue. That was the kind of teaching which was used in some council schools as a substitute for Divine truth. He would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman what power there was behind those so-called moral maxims to enable the child to carry them out? Behind the Holy Scripture there was the power of the Holy Spirit of God to enable the child to carry out in its daily life the principles taught it in the school, but what power of this kind was there behind these moral maxims? This Amendment also laid down that the religious instruction should be given during school hours, and they considered that was an essential thing in the 14,000 voluntary schools in this country. They did not like religious instruction divorced from secular instruction. They desired the children not only to receive religious instruction but to be religiously instructed right through school hours; they wanted them to associate this teaching with the same mistress or master who imparted both their religious and secular instruction. They wanted a religious atmosphere surrounding the children, and he did not see how that was possible if religious instruction was to be divorced from secular instruction. To do that would be placing religion in an inferior position in the child's mind. The President of the Board of Trade had told them—

> "He wanted the councils to take the school time-table into their own hands. Do not let the managers draft it, but let the council themselves so draft it as to permit a short interval to elapse before the school proceeded to the religious instruction. Let all the children go out for a few minutes. Then let those who prefer Catechism to play return for the religious instruction, while their fellows would be free to continue their play. He contended that the children should be given perfect freedom, subject to their parents' consent, to choose which they preferred, learning the Apostles' Creed and the parsons' Catechism or their own play. He had no doubt that the children would have such regard for apostolic succession as would draw them back to the school while the wicked went their way bird-nesting."

That gave them a good idea of what the President of the Board of Trade had in his mind in regard to this question, and it also gave them a good idea of what it was hoped might be brought about by some members of His Majesty's present advisers. So far as he was concerned he would not trust a man like that with the religious instruction of children. He would not trust him with the moral instruction of children or even with the moral training of a litter of puppies, for they would bite and snarl, and steal. For those reasons he disapproved of religious instruction being divorced from secular instruction. Churchmen asked for definite religious instruction, and Nonconformists seemed to be incapable of understanding them on that subject. He was sure, however, they were genuinely willing to try to understand them. No syllabus could, in their view, take the place of definite Church teaching in the schools. They felt that no Nonconformist teaching should take the place of it. The Nonconformists seemed to recognise the fact that they themselves were entitled to have strong conscientious feeling against the teaching which Churchmen desired, but they failed to recognise the fact that Churchmen had equally strong conscientious objection to having their children insufficiently taught the Divine truths which appertained to their eternal welfare. They believed the welfare of the children was bound up in the kind of teaching they got in these schools and the atmosphere in which that teaching was given.

*DR. MACNAMARA said he concurred entirely in the statement of the hon. Member for the St. Albans Division, that the Ministerialists had the greatest difficulty in meeting him because they did not understand his mind. He had listened to the hon. Gentleman's views with extreme interest, but with an entire lack of understanding. What was he to understand by the hon. Member's statement that he would not trust the President of the Board of Trade with the moral training of a litter of puppies? Was he to take that literally or not?

MR. CARLILE rose and was understood to say that he regretted that he could not remain in the House to listen to the hon. Member as he had had no food.

*DR. MACNAMARA said he thought it possible that they might manage, even in the absence of the hon. Gentleman who had just gone out, to discuss the important Amendment proposed by the late Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education. The Amendment said that no school should be recognised as a public elementary school

> "unless provision is made by bye-law or otherwise for the religious instruction during school hours of the children attending the school in accordance, so far as possible, with the wishes of their parents, whether such instruction be or be not permitted under Section 14 of The Elementary Education Act, 1870."

The Amendment raised a very vital problem, and he wished to point out to the Committee at once that, if accepted, it would destroy Clause 6 of the Bill. The Amendment provided for the paying of public money for compelling children to go to school and to receive religious instruction, while Clause 6 provided that attendance during the time for religious instruction was not to be required. When the Committtee came to Clause 6 they would have to consider seriously the question whether they should or should not compel children to be in attendance at religious instruction. He had an open mind in regard to the policy laid down in Clause 6. There was a good deal to be said on both sides of the question. It did seem a little illiberal to compel a parent to send his child to school at a time when religious instruction was being given of a kind which he did not wish the child to receive. The hon. Gentleman who had just gone out had talked of school boards not giving religious instruction at all. They were an infinitesimally small number and confined to one part of the country where peculiar local difficulties, and the intolerance of the church, had as much to do with the decision as anything else. This Bill carried them no further than the Cowper-temple system itself. The Cowper-Temple system left it to the school board to say that there should or should not be religious instruction given in the schools. When he heard of this being out of touch with the feelings of the people, he asked why did the electors in the infinitesimally small number of places where religious instruction was not given in the schools not insist on religious instruction being restored to the school curriculum? The hon. Member for St. Albans Division had referred to a book of morals which was used in the schools of Huddersfield. He himself was an assistant teacher in that borough in 1882–1883, but the book of morals referred to was not in use there then, and he never had anything to do with it.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): This book was published in 1884.

***Dr. MACNAMARA** said the more serious part of the Amendment was that it provided that, in all the schools, not only should the children come under compulsion, but that, so far as possible, there should be religious teaching given in accordance with the wishes of the parents. That was State provision of denominational teaching all round. That was the proposal of Clause 27 of the Bill of 1896 and the phraseology of the Amendment was to the same effect as that of that clause. The proposal was considered impracticable in 1896, and he considered it absolutely impracticable now. It was pan-denominationalism, which he had ventured to call pandemonium. He recognised it was perfectly just, fair, and logical that, if they were to do anything at all, they should endeavour to make provision all round for all denominations. What would happen in such a case? The local authority would have to make provision in the appointment of its teachers for the exigencies of religious teaching, and the conduct of the schools in secular subjects would have to be subordinate to the necessities of the case in this respect. Such a proposal was absurd. In a school of 120 children instanced by the President of the Board of Education there would be a head teacher and two assistants. Seventy Church children would demand the services of two teachers, and there would be only one teacher to teach the remainder of the children, of whom thirty might be Methodists, ten Baptists, five Roman Catholics, and five not associated with any particular church. He was not prepared to incur the enormous expense of appointing a teacher specially to meet the needs of the five Roman Catholic children; and yet, under a system of pan-denominationalism the needs of five Roman Catholic children would be just as important as the needs of seventy Church children. In the Bill of 1902 there was a similar provision for pan-denominationalism, but there was also a proviso that "due regard should be had to the economy of the rates." This was a grotesque and impracticable proposal, and he should vote against it.

Mr. WYNDHAM (Dover) said he had listened to the speech of the hon. Gentleman with some disappointment. The hon. Gentleman had talked about the practical difficulties of carrying on a school under certain conditions, but he had simply dismissed an Amendment containing an important principle by merely saying the proposal was absurd. He appealed to the Committee that they could not proceed for Clause 1 as it stood now until they had considered it in a very different spirit from the claims put forward by the hon. Gentleman. He did not think the hon. Member could have read the Amendment.

Dr. MACNAMARA: I have, with great care.

Mr. WYNDHAM said that the hon. Gentleman found fault with the Amendment because it provided that all the children should attend religious instruction.

Dr. MACNAMARA: No; to attend school during religious instruction.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Yes; but the hon. Gentleman said that the time to consider this matter was on Clause 6. But that clause was solely connected with the parent's right to cause his child to attend at the school house only during secular instruction. Taking the matter as it now stood, the hon. Member held that the children should attend for religious instruction if the parents so desired it specifically, but if otherwise they should not. He compared that with the speech of the right hon. the Minister for Education who proposed with great earnestness that religious instruction should be given everywhere; that it should embrace all the fundamental truths of Christianity. But could that be carried out if the matter was left where the hon. Member for North Camberwell left it? As the question was left by the hon. Member the children need not attend, and the teacher need not give instruction. That carried with it the result that such religious instruction as would be given under the Bill was to be given at the cost of the teacher. That was not a generous recognition of the desire of the Minister for Education that religious instruction should be given everywhere, and that it should embrace the fundamental truths of Christianity. But if the Committee were in earnest in desiring that religious education should be given to the children, they could not leave the matter as it now stood. If numbers in the lobby meant anything, the Committee desired that the children should get religious instruction in the schools. It should not be left to chance, it should not be given at the cost of the teacher, it should not be in the power of parents who wanted the help of their children in their home life to deprive them of religious instruction. This Amendment provided that during the hours in which the children were attending school, religious instruction should be given, and in so far as it was possible the religious instruction should be that which the parents desired. That was a claim upon which they would have to insist. Given that religious instruction was required, and that it was desirable also to violate no man's conscience, it was for the Government, and not the Opposition, to devise a plan that would fulfill those two conditions. They declared that the Bill in its present shape did nothing of the kind. The Government were ready to face the situation that arose where four-fifths of the parents of the children desired some kind of denominational teaching; in such a case they were to have it, and to have it taught by teachers who believed in it. But if the Government were ready to concede that, how could they adduce the argument as to the practical difficulty against this Amendment, which embodied a proposal of a far less drastic character? The argument the Government now advanced would militate agains their own proposals in Clause 4. By that clause the Government had recognised that there must be some, even a great, concession to the wishes of parents. But they also recognised that if that concession was made there were other minorities who might sometimes suffer. It was not a sufficient argument to say that the practical difficulty was not capable of solution. Why should not some regard be paid to the conscientious convictions of parents who lived in a locality where opinion was divided equally? The Minister for Education that afternoon, in referring to Clause 4, felt this difficulty of leaving Clause 1 as it stood; but he said that to leave it apart from the other provisions of the Bill would lay the Government open to the charge of intolerance. Then why did they not have some regard for the deep convictions of the parents who did not live in a locality where there were four-fifths of the same denomination? The hardship was all the same. If it was intolerant in one case it was intolerant in the other. There was no answer to that. The Minister for Education had said that he sought an English settlement. That phrase would not be forgotten. If there was to be an English settlement, was it extravagant for Churchmen to claim that the historic Church of England should have fair play with other denominations? In the main the Government were bargaining with that Church—if the word "bargain" could be used in this connection—which had done more for secular as well as religious education than other bodies, and which had built more schools. The fabrics were there, they represented sacrifices and sincerity of purpose. Ought not the State to see that that Church received fair play? If they did not, it would not be an English settlement, and such was the inherent love of justice in the country that their efforts would fail. Complaint was made by many supporters of the Government that under the Act of 1902 hardship and injustice still remained in the village schools in the single school areas. But that Act was supported as zealously by the hon. Member for North Camberwell as it was by any hon. Member who supported the Government of the day. Would that hon. Member deny that he had stated that the children in Church schools ought not to have worse paid teachers than other schools and worse equipment because they were in Church schools.

DR. MACNAMARA said that what he had stated in regard to the Bill of 1902 was that it was a great reform to get rid of the idea of charity and to keep up the voluntary schools out of public funds, but he had said that such a measure should be accompanied by full popular control.

MR. WYNDHAM observed that the hon. Member had stated that these schools should not be bad schools, that the children should have the same cubic feet of accommodation and that the teachers should be as well paid as in other schools. Did the hon. Member say that because these schools had to be made good schools therefore the right of the Churchman to have fair play from the State lapsed? Such a contention was a complete *non sequitur* and admitting the hon. Member's idea to the full that every school should be a good school, and conducted in the way in which good schools were, to make them good schools would not affect the claim to justice put forward by any other persons in this country who came and said they were suffering hardship and injustice in the village schools in the single school areas. He was quite willing that injustice should be cured, but it should be cured without inflicting hardship upon others. There was no reason why greater hardship and injustice should be inflicted on a larger number of persons. Such a state of things was intolerable, but this was the settlement that the Government were putting forward in this measure. He believed that the Government would be driven eventually to make a fair compromise as between all denominations and to set up a denominational system that would do justice to the desires of all denominations. There was no escape from such a remedy. The objection of Churchmen to the Free Church Catechism was far less than their objection to the editing of the Bible. On what principles were Biblical passages to be selected? In the syllabuses mentioned by the hon. Member for Dewsbury the other evening the Gospel of St. Matthew was quoted. Why not the Gospel of St. Luke? Why should a selection of the Scriptures be made at all, and if they had to be made, why should not the work be undertaken by the Church to which the parents of the children belonged? This after all was surely an affair of the parents and not of the county council. He quoted from a speech of the Education Minister made before the general election in which the right hon. Gentleman said that he was in favour of making Cowper-Temple instruction a reality, and that wherever possible the parents should be given the right to have definite religious instruction of a special character if they so desired it. The passing of the first clause would entail the making of some general provision to meet the claims of justice, and then the provision must be made mandatory throughout the country. The Minister for Education had also written, among his other works, a book on trusts, and he hoped that every trustee would read it, for therein it was declared that a trustee as a man of honour could not surrender his school until the Government propounded some fair basis of general compromise throughout of the country.

LORD R. CECIL said he desired to speak upon this Amendment because for the first time the question had arisen as to whether a solution of the religious difficulty was to be arrived at on the lines of the Bill or upon the lines that the parents should settle what religious instruction their children were to have. The lines of the Bill were what was called the Cowper-Temple Clause, and he had not yet heard from any part of the Committee any kind of defence of the Cowper-Temple Clause. The nearest approach to a defence to it was reached by the hon. Member for North Camberwell, who said he defended it on the ground that it was wholly illogical.

DR. MACNAMARA: I said it could be defended on the ground that it had thirty-five years success behind it.

LORD R. CECIL said he was coming to that in a moment. The hon. Member said it could not be defended on any logical ground. It was a most remarkable state of things when the Committee was asked to confirm a solution come to in 1870 because it was illogical. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had referred to the success of the last thirty-five years. What did the success consist of? Were we more religious to-day than we were thirty-five years ago? He wondered whether any hon. Member opposite had read Mr. Booth's book on religious work in London. Did he sanction the view at all that the churches had a greater hold, or that religion had a greater hold on the population of the Metropolis to-day than it had thirty-five years ago? They had the evidence of the hon. Member for Leicester, who told them that the religious instruction given under the Cowper-Temple Clause was in his opinion from a spiritual point of view absolutely useless. When they had it quoted as a success for thirty-five years they were entitled to inquire what was the evidence of that success. So far as he was concerned he had not heard in the course of this debate any evidence whatever of it. It was one of those phrases which by continuous repetition had come to be regarded as proof. If they left that aspect alone, they were next told that any one who objected to undenominationalism was opposed to the simple teaching of the Bible. Several gentlemen who had addressed the Committee had had the courage to suggest that the Church of England was opposed to the simple teaching of the Bible. He regarded it as in the highest degree—the phrase was that of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade—in the highest degree arrogant for anybody to state that any Christian denomination did not value the teaching of the Bible. He was quite sure that none of the hon. Members representing Ireland would suggest that their Church undervalued the simple teachings of the Bible. Such an assertion could only be excused by the extreme ignorance of those who made it. If any Church valued the teachings of the Bible that Church was the Church of England. The teaching of the Bible was laid down in its formulae and in the Prayer Book, and it formed the basis of its faith. If it could not be proud of anything else, the English Church could pride itself on the fact that it was based and based only on the teachings of the Bible. What they said was that undenominationalism could not teach the Bible in its fulness. It was a great claim and was put forward at the time of the Reformation that the Bible was not taught in its fulness. If it was to be taught in its fulness it must be so taught denominationally. Hon. Members opposite had really not considered it. He was reluctant to quote passages from the Bible in this Committee, but he would ask how was it possible to teach the Epistle to the Romans, the general Epistle of St. James, the first chapter of St. John, or the Epistle to the Ephesians except denominationally? They all teemed with passages, the discussion of which had divided Europe. How was it possible to teach those great principles and dogmas of Christianity undenominationally without ignoring the discussions altogether? That was one form of denominationalism.

MR. HAY MORGAN (Cornwall, Truro): We do not want to teach those passages.

LORD R. CECIL said he took up the hon. Member's interruption.

That was the exact solution of the Bill—instead of teaching the Bible in its fulness, it proposed to teach selections from the Bible—selections made not by the great historic Churches, with the assistance of the Church councils and the divines, but by the county councils. Not the most audacious Gentleman opposite would dare to construct a schedule to this Bill setting out the passages of the Bible that might be read, and those that might not be read. Yet that duty was to be entrusted to the county councils. The great objection he had to undenominationalism, even at its best, was its vagueness.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: Would the noble Lord tell the Committee to what denomination St. Paul belonged.

LORD R. CECIL said that St. Paul, at any rate, was not in favour of making any selections from the Bible. He was in favour of teaching the Bible as a whole. [AN HON. MEMBER: How do you know?] Because St. Paul said so.

THE CHAIRMAN: This question is hardly in order on this Amendment.

LORD R. CECIL said he was only trying to demonstrate that the alternative to the religion which was selected by parents was the religion selected by the Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: I meant the interjection about St. Paul.

LORD R. CECIL said he desired to leave the plane to which he was led unwillingly by the interruptions of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and to return to the seriousness with which this discussion ought to be carried on. He was about to urge that the great objection he had to undenominationalism, even at its best, was its vagueness. Assuming that undenominationalism meant—and there was no guarantee whatever that it did—the teaching of what was called fundamental Christianity, there remained the great difficulty that even amongst those who were best instructed there were various conceptions of what fundamental Christianity really was. From the Treasury Bench and the one behind it had come three separate descriptions, each one of which was of a religion which would have been quite acceptable to a Mohammedan and was emphatically not Christianity. If the Minister for Education and his colleagues gave descriptions of fundamental Christianity which many Members of the Committee could not possibly accept, how could they expect that the fundamental Christianity arrived at by the county councils of the country without any guidance from Parliament or anybody else would be in any way adequate to the description it pretended to bear? If it were true, as he ventured to say it was, that undenominationalism, even at its best, was highly unsatisfactory, what were the alternatives? Supporters of the Government sometimes said, "If you reject this proposal your only alternative is the secular basis." He doubted whether they would hear so much about that after the division this evening; but so far as he was concerned he desired in all seriousness to press upon those hon. Members who were members of Nonconformist bodies that the secular system would be a serious blow to Christianity, and most serious to the Nonconformist communities. It would mean that, while the rich, vigorous, well-organised bodies would have an opportunity of teaching their children their respective beliefs, the poorer, less numerous, and less organised bodies would be at a very serious disadvantage. The Church of England had probably less to fear than the smaller bodies from such a settlement. There was another, and the only possible alternative, and to his mind it was the only fair settlement—namely, to accept this Amendment and bring up the children in the beliefs of the various denominations to which their parents belonged. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had suggested a number of practical difficulties. He himself had come across a variety of difficulties raised in every private Bill that came before a Committee upstairs. They were raised by Gentlemen who thoroughly understood the questions of which they spoke, but somehow or other Committees of this House did not always regard those difficulties, and when the Bill became law they somehow or other disappeared. The difficulties of administration, the difficulties suggested by the school of 120 children, five of whom were of one denomination, five of another, and so on, looked all very pretty on paper, but when the Bill became law there would be very little difficulty at all in arriving at a practical solution. He had no doubt himself that a solution based on the lines of this Amendment would work well. He was very little moved in dealing with a subject of this kind by the question whether there might be a certain amount of confusion in the school, for the real question at issue was of far more importance in his view. He agreed that there was nothing so troublesome to the ordinary man as the person who had religious convictions. [Cries of "Oh, oh!"] He regarded it as being of the utmost importance that children should be brought up in the religion of their parents. It was the duty of this Committee and the Government to find a way out of this difficulty and secure that supreme result. The scheme put forward by the Government was illogical and indefensible, and failed altogether in its object, and this clause was one which the Committee ought not to accept.

MR. BIRRELL said he had not listened to the noble Lord without finding it very difficult to make out exactly what he meant. He could not entirely make out whether the noble Lord desired to teach the Protestant children of this country some kind of religious teaching to which he attached enormous importance or whether he was really desirous that they should receive in the public elementary schools of the country the kind of religious teaching their parents wanted. He wished every religious body would be careful to publish syllabuses giving an exact notion of what should be taught, so that parents might know precisely what doctrines would be taught to their children. His own belief was that the syllabus to which reference had been made, now in use in most of the counties, honestly interpreted the wishes of the great majority of the parents. In addition there was the third clause, which was intended to secure that the Church Catechism, the Prayer-Book, and what were called Church principles, so far as they were generally understood, should be taught twice a week in all the old Church schools. He accordingly believed that very little difference would be made by this Bill in the kind of religious teaching that was given. The noble Lord had asked whether we were distinctly a more religious people now than we were thirty-six years ago. That was a question no one could answer. The forces of irreligion and the forces of materialism in all classes of society and all quarters of the globe were so strong that it was very hard to say what would have been the condition of things, had any other course been pursued. But of one thing he was certain, that according to the common testimony of parents and teachers alike, and even by the admission of prelates of the Church, the teaching which had been given in our board schools had had some influence and some effect. In the Church schools religious teaching was too often a lifeless and formal thing. The Member for Leicester had got into a little trouble for making some criticism on religious teaching in both board schools and voluntary schools. Everybody who knew anything about the matter knew that very often this teaching was very defective and lifeless. He had received a letter that morning from a clergyman, who enclosed a pamphlet he had published in which he said that going into a Church school he found a Church teacher apostrophising a small urchin—

> "Stand out in the middle of the class, you good-for-nothing little ragamuffin, and tell me what Jesus says about peacemakers."

That was not the way to teach the Beatitudes. To call attention to the fact that religious teaching both in Church schools and Board schools might often be lifeless was a criticism of method and was different from saying that all religious teaching was lifeless.

LORD R. CECIL said his argument was directed to this. It was constantly said that board school teaching had been a great success. He asked on what evidence that assertion was based

MR. BIRRELL said the only evidence that could be produced was the very general testimony of teachers themselves that great benefit had resulted from board school teaching, and that view had received the warrant of persons of greater authority than the noble Lord. It had been contended that it was the duty of the Government to surmount the practical difficulties in the way of a pan-denominational system. He did not know how they could be got over. The noble Lord had said this was a matter of such vital importance that the discipline of the school was to be totally disregarded. The £20,000,000 or £30,000,000 which this country devoted to giving secular instruction to our children was apparently so insignificant that it was not to be regarded as compared with the importance of giving definite and dogmatic teaching to little children between the ages of five and fourteen years. He did not think the Government could quite take that view. He thought they were entitled to say it was a very difficult matter to know how to arrange for all the denominations to come in between the hours of 9 and 9.45 and give instruction to the different classes of children attending a school. The example he had taken of 120 children was, he could assure the noble Lord, by no means imaginary. It was a very real example. He had spoken of seventy children belonging to the Church of England and thirty children belonging to the Primitive Methodists. He knew many schools in East Anglia where the proportions were the other way—seventy Primitive Methodists and thirty children belonging to the Church of England. It was not unusual in England to find a school with 120 scholars belonging to the Church of England, the Methodist and Baptist bodies, and the Roman Catholic Church, together with some whose parents would not wish them to receive any religious instruction at all. There was nothing strange or false about that: and it was quite in accordance with the experience of everybody who had made himself acquainted with the working of the schools. The practical difficulty, therefore, was an enormous one, and baffled, he believed, all possible attempts at solution. If we were to have the pan-denominational system he did not think it would be right to have it under terms which would make it almost impossible for many denominations, such as the Methodists, to have anything like fair play in the matter. Under that system the present difficulty would be found to exist—namely, that parents would be unable to get the religious instruction they desired for their children, and they would perforce have to fall back on the dominant sect of the school. It was not fair for hon. Gentlemen opposite, who had tried their hands at solving this problem and had failed, to say it was the duty of the Government to solve something which time and space, over which they had no control, prevented their solving. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover had invited the trustees of 14,000 schools to buy a little book of his on "Trusts." It would be very desirable, perhaps, that they should. But he felt bound to warn them against it, because they would not find a single word in it dealing with public or educational trusts. It dealt with the duties of private trustees, marriage settlements and wills. There was the greatest possible difference between private trusts, wills, and settlements, and public trusts. One reason was that public trusts had been torn in two by this House again and again. The Government were not tearing them one bit more than they had been torn heretofore. This was an Amendment which they could not accept because it would be found impracticable. It could not be worked without completely breaking up the discipline of the schools, or without imposing upon a number of denominations something which would appear to give them equality and freedom, while as a matter of fact, they would find themselves totally unable to supply the teaching that would be of any use, and therefore they would have to fall back on the dominant sect of the school where their children were sent. For these reasons it was impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) said he thought the Committee should hesitate before it rejected an Amendment which was admitted to be logical, just, and fair. This Amendment was the Education Bill promised by the

Minister for Education at the general election. It left the Cowper-Temple clause untouched. The right hon. Gentleman told the country during the election that, while in all schools he would have Cowper-Temple teaching, he would attempt to provide that in all schools there should be denominational education so that people who wanted more than Cowper-Temple teaching should be able to enjoy the benefits of such instruction. Did the right hon. Gentleman deny that? Why did he not find out that it was impracticable before he told the electors that was the Bill they were going to have?

MR. BIRRELL: I never said that was the Bill they were going to have.

SIR E. CARSON said he told them that was the Bill he was going to try to give them. He said—

> "Not only was he desirous that there should be Christian education, Bible education, in all the schools; he was also anxious that in all the schools there should be facilities given if they could be arranged on proper terms, whereby all denominations would have opportunities of instructing the children who attended these schools in what they believed to be their religion."

Would the right hon. Gentleman accept the Amendment if the words "if they can be arranged" were inserted? If he would not, then he would have misled the country. The right hon. Gentleman had not dealt with the Amendment; he had dealt with generalities as to impossibilities. They asked by this Amendment that provision should be made by by-law, or otherwise, at the expense of the State, or otherwise, whereby instruction was to be given in the schools. [Cries of "Or otherwise."] This was not a matter to be treated as a joke or to be got rid of by unmannerly interruptions. Since the debate began nobody had been able to point out any injustice in this Amendment. All they asked was perfect equality, and that was what they did not get from the Bill as it stood. Would anyone suggest that equality was given by the Bill? He noticed that there were no cheers from the Government side of the House. No, it was because it could not be contended by anyone that equality was given by the Bill. How could there be equality when thousands and thousands said that they were satisfied with the system of the Bill, and other thousands and thousands declared that they were dissatisfied? If he might digress for a moment, he might say that the former had every right to be satisfied, because if the Bill was to give religious teaching at all, it was to give religious teaching with a view to capture the maximum number of votes. The Bill was on the straight road to the very Amendment which was negatived just before the dinner hour. And why? Because, in the first place, it was quite possible that local education bodies might not adopt any religious education in the schools at all. That had happened at the present time; there were fifty-seven places where religious teaching was not given. In the second place, the religion the Government had laid down to be taught was entirely unsatisfactory to millions of children in the schools. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] Hon. Gentlemen said "no"; but surely the only way to test that was by what people said. In the third place—and he took it that this was the most serious part in relation to the children—it was proposed that the Opposition should be satisfied that such religion as the Government grudgingly gave, should be taught by a person who did not believe in it. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] Yes, because there was to be no test. He contended that any such system as that was the secularisation of religion; and he thought that the secularisation of religion was far worse than the secularisation of the schools. If the schools were secularised they might have still the teaching of religion outside; but the moment religion was secularised in the schools it would be a very great disadvantage in the future for the religious teaching of this country. Objection had been made to the Amendment that it was impracticable. Why should it be impracticable that each denomination should be allowed to go in and teach its own children? He believed that for a very long time in Ireland the two religions which divided the people in that country were taught in the same National schools, and he never knew that any difficulty had arisen from it. He could not but believe that what was practical in

Ireland was also practical in England. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had said there would be a difficulty about the teachers; but he maintained that there would be no such difficulty if the chance was given to denominationalists to obtain the teachers at the public expense. The truth of the matter was that the Government did not want to come to any compromise; that they would not listen to anything in the nature of equality. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had said that it was the intention of the Government to meet the views of the Roman Catholics and the Jews, but he held that before this Bill became law it should be made applicable to all sects and denominations alike. There were only two possible ways. One was to allow no religion in the schools at all, or that all religions equally should be taught in the schools. That was the system which the right hon. the Minister for Education advocated during the general election, and that was the system which the right hon. Gentleman had abandoned, but to which the Opposition would attempt to hold him all through this controversy.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) wished to say a few words from his own point of view on this question. As he understood it, the Amendment proposed that after the Committee had rejected the idea of secular education, each denomination should have the right to give its own definite instruction in the schools. The Committee had done a very remarkable thing that day in rejecting the logical solution of this difficulty from the non-sectarian point of view, a solution which had received a smaller number of votes than in 1870. The Government had taken up the attitude to the present Amendment that they could not assent to the principle that each denomination should have the right to give its own teaching. Though of course Catholics maintained the infallibility of the Pope in matters of faith and morals, in rejecting this Amendment a new and exceedingly startling doctrine had been brought forward by hon. Members and that was the infallibility of Birrell. The right hon. Gentleman had said he could not have the denominationalist religious solution of this difficulty. He said he must have religion, but it must be on the cheap. He had to regard the whole question economically; he had to regard not religious education, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He could not provide each of the religious sects with their own religious teaching because modern English economics did not allow of it. He (Mr. Healy) had been endeavouring to ascertain the number of days on which the average Christian went to church on Sundays. He was not compelled to go, but during, say, twenty years of his life he would go on fifty out of fifty-two Sundays. That was 1,000 times that he went in order to learn the doctrines of his Church and religion. Under this Bill a scholar had to go to school 300 days in the year compulsorily, and if he did not go his father and not himself would be sent to gaol. Taking the average school period as four years, a child had to go 1,200 times to school to learn a religion in which he did not believe, whereas the ordinary Protestant citizen who was not under compulsion went 1,000 times. When they had rejected the secular solution they had no right to impose on people a form of religion which was not adopted by a single Nonconformist body or by the Roman Catholics or by the Church of England, but which was the solution of a number of gentlemen sitting in county councils who had neither training nor practical experience in this teaching. Surely the Government under these circumstances would be well advised to leave the various schools alone and provide for the various bodies the religion they desired to be taught.

COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) wished to say a few words upon the practicability of the proposals which had been put forward from the Opposition side of the Committee. His solution, if he might present it without transgressing the laws of order, would be that there should be compulsory Cowper-Temple teaching in every school in the kingdom alike, whether board school or voluntary school, but that it should be supplemented. He believed that this country was still a Christian country, and he was sure that hon. Members on the Ministerial side of the House would say with him that if we were a Christian country we ought to have the courage of our convictions and in some form or another have Christianity taught to our children. They were told that they could not teach religion to little children, and that they could not teach dogma to them. His own feeling was that there was no religious teaching which was not dogma, although they could make their dogma as simple as they liked. He believed that there was no religious teaching which would not contain the germ of Christianity, and that they must commence by giving such teaching to the young. He believed that they could teach religious dogma to very little children indeed. It was objected that they ought not to get the children into the school and then sort them out in separate pens, one in this pen and one in the other. But they were told that children must go to Sunday school. Was not that a sorting of them out into pens? Moreover, did not all parents take their children to church or chapel on Sunday, and did not that convey to the youthful mind the idea that there were different religions in the country in these days? Of course it did, and of course parents would take their children to their particular place of worship. But to return to the question of practicability, his suggestion was that Cowper-Temple teaching should be given in every school in the kingdom, both board school and voluntary school alike, on three days a week, but that the parents of every denomination should have the right to have their children taught in the religion of their denomination on two days a week. Hon. Members talked, however, about the difficulty of sorting the children, but he did not see where that difficulty arose for Nonconformists always said they did not want denominational teaching. As a matter of fact it was almost only the Anglicans and the Roman Catholics who would demand denominational teaching. If those two sects afforded an example to other sects it would be a great advantage, but at present it was only those two religions which demanded such teaching; that simplified the matter, because if the Nonconformists did not want denominational teaching they need not have it. He agreed with everything that had been said on the other side as to the value of the Cowper-Temple teaching; it was very good teaching indeed. But it was not enough. Hon. Members opposite talked about a foundation, but what was the use of making half a foundation for a whole house. They could not forget that there were thousands of people in this country who said that Cowper-Temple teaching was not sufficient and that they wanted something more. Hon. Members opposite said they should not have anything more. Of course they would be told that Clause 3 provided for that, and that Clause 6 gave them another chance, but where was that provided for and where was that chance given? In the voluntary schools only. What about the 1,500,000 children who were in the elementary schools of the country, the parents of many of whom would be thankful if they could get for their children denominational teaching on one or two days a week, but who could not get it. Both sides must admit making mistakes. Hon. Members opposite must deeply feel the mistakes they made in 1870. He admitted also that mistakes were made in the Act of 1902, but were they going to perpetuate the mistakes in this Bill? Surely they should endeavour to rise to higher things on the stepping stones of their own dead selves. Could not hon. Members opposite say that in 1870 Cowper-Temple religion was established in the land to a certain extent, that in 1902 the Unionist Party had too much denominational teaching—could not the Committee now say, "Never mind Party advantage and Party triumph, what we want now is that there should be a solid foundation for Christian teaching, and that there should not be anyone in this country deprived of it?" It was said that clericalism was the enemy. Clericalism was not the enemy; the enemy was unbelief and carelessness. Were we not to see that our children had religion? They could have too little religious teaching, but not too much. Let them give that religious teaching as trained teachers could give it, and they could give it best. Let the trained teachers give what religious teaching they liked, and let them have the power to give the religious teaching which they liked to give. Let them by all means have a system which should be alike for all—the Cowper-Temple system if they liked—but in all the schools let them have the power to teach the children the religion which their parents believed. Let not hon. Gentlemen opposite press their fingers upon the consciences of those who honestly and sincerely believed that denominational teaching was right for their children. He could tell the Committee of working men and working women who, when a petition was put before them to sign praying for religious teaching, said, "Give it me and I will take it round." They did that because they wanted their children taught some sort of denominational religion. By giving undenominational religious teaching in every school in the kingdom to those who wanted it and by providing denominational facilities to every school in the kingdom to those who wanted that they would get justice and, as he thought, truth.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes, 367 (Division List No. 101.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn.Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, RtHn.A.J.(City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, Sir Edward (City Lond.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewish'm
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison, Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hervey, F.W.F(Bury, S.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Farehn
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A R
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh, W
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Reddy, M.

Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W.Mitchell (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Walker, Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agar-Robartes, Hon. T. C.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Dev'np'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'r Hamlets, S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn.James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt.Hn.Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J (S.Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H.(Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, T. Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt Hn.Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh.
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A G.
Hope, W.Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a

Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H.Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, L. Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,Charles N (Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans

Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D.(Colchester)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell(Scarboro'.
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpton
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G.Scot (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.(Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)

Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor Theodore C.(Radcliff)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.WH(Somerset, E.
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. D. R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A.(Elgin and Nairn
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

THE CHAIRMAN ruled that the remaining Amendments to the clause upon the Paper were either out of order or contained matter which had already been disposed of.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he desired to point out that on this clause, which practically made every school a provided school, it would have been greatly to the convenience of the Committee if the Government had given them even the smallest intimation of the course they were going to pursue on those later clauses of the Bill which in some way mitigated or were expected to mitigate the full force of Clause 1. Of course, if the Government's intention was to remain rigidly fixed in the formulas they themselves had determined upon, they had no announcement to make. The Government, however, did not think that the wording of the clause, at all events, was satisfactory, and they were prepared to make modifications to an extent which the Committee could not conjecture. But hon. Members might have been in a better position to judge of the policy they were pursuing had the Government taken the Committee a little more into their confidence. It might be because the Government had not made up their minds as to what modifications they ought to accept. They were torn between different and irreconcilable schools of thought. There was the Minister for Education, whose opinions they knew from sources more authentic than those of his speeches in defence of the Bill, because there were other speeches of the right hon. Gentleman available which were not made in defence of anything or of any Government; and he presumed that in a position of irresponsibility the right hon. Gentleman had a better insight into what he would do had he the power, had a more clear and unmistakable insight, than anything they could gather from his statements made under the inevitable responsibility of office, when he had to consult, not merely his colleagues in the Cabinet, but the varying forces in the House and in the country with which he had to deal. It might be, and probably was, that neither the right hon. Gentleman himself nor the Government had any doubt in their own minds as to the future policy they were to recommend to the Committee, but that they were waiting to see, he would not say how the cat jumped, but, at all events, in what direction the political forces which acted upon them were going to drive them in dealing with Clauses 3 and 4, and the clauses dealing with trusts. That was not the only complaint they had to make as to the conduct of the Government on this clause. Nor was it the most serious complaint. He understood and sympathised with the determination of the right hon. Gentleman to maintain a discreet silence as long as and as well as possible with regard to the provisions of the Bill. But he thought that the right hon. Gentleman must feel, after the arguments the Committee had listened to, that the position which he and his friends had taken up was one which was absolutely indefensible. The Government made every school a provided school. By doing so they prevented the appointment of a teacher by any denomination, although as regarded Clause 4 the teacher was expected to teach the religion of some denomination. He did not know how they were going to remedy that in the later clauses. He saw indications of a remedy in the speeches made to deputations, but he saw no indication of the same desire either in the speeches delivered in the House or in a Government Amendment on the Paper. What was the plea the Government had systematically put forward in the House? The plea was that the public desired simple Bible teaching, and the Government were going to give it at the public expense; and anything else that was to be given, was to be given under serious limitations, under limitations which he thought inflicted a gross injustice on the voluntary schools, a gross wrong upon the consciences of many parents of many children. He would suppose that a Government which was prepared to endow a particular form of undenominational teaching would take care at all events that undenominational teaching reached a certain standard of religious excellence, and that arrangements were made to see that those who taught it should have adequate qualifications for teaching it. Neither of these provisions was in the Bill, nor was there any indication that they were to be. Therefore it seemed to him that on their own theory as to what education ought to be the Government had fallen lamentably short of their own standard—deficient though it was in the opinion of those who had no quarrel with the Free Church Catechism, but who had some regard for the consciences of the parents. Why were the Government endowing out of the rates a particular form of religion and refusing any kind of facility for those who professed another kind of religion? Even if only a small minority of parents preferred the denominational system, was no effort to be made to meet their conscientious desires? He could not gather from the speeches of the Minister for Education that he had the smallest idea outside Clauses 3 and 4 of meeting to any extent whatever the claims of the great body of the schools now non-provided. Two logical solutions had been proposed for this difficulty—the secular solution, rejected by an enormous majority, and that of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham. A third solution had been proposed by the hon. Member for Oxford University—a solution which permitted Cowper-Temple teaching to be paid for out of the rates, provided that side by side with it was the other teaching which so many parents desired. How could the Government reject all these solutions? Was it not plain that one of them must ultimately be accepted? Did the Government seriously say that, in spite of the enormous sums which the denominationalists had spent, and in spite of the undoubted wishes of large numbers of parents, they were not only going to pay for one kind of religious teaching alone, but they were going to forbid other people from paying for their own religious teaching? Mr. A., Mr. B., and Mr. C. might be satisfied with the teaching, but Mr. D., Mr. E., and Mr. F. would come and say:—"That teaching does not satisfy us. May we teach what we think our children ought to learn? We are quite ready to pay the whole cost of it, and do not want to go upon the rates. Will you, please, give us, not financial equality, for it could not be, but religious equality?" The Minister for Education replies:—"This is inconsistent with my Bill." He did not say it was inconsistent with justice—no man could say that. The injustice which the Government were deliberately intending to inflict upon vast masses of the population was of a kind which every man could understand, which every man would realise, and which the country would soon realise, if it had not already done so. How could the Government hope to base a solution of the religious difficulty upon so rotten a foundation as was provided in this Bill? It was not as if denominationalists asked for equal treatment—they were merely asking by this Amendment to have unequal treatment; they were merely asking to be allowed to pay for that which other people received pay for out of the rates. Even that the Government refused. No attempt to solve this question based upon such a fundamental injustice could really stand continuous criticism, or could become part of the permanent educational system of the country. He hoped the Minister for Education would feel the force of the appeal now being made to him. Was it unreasonable to ask him to give some indication that he was prepared to consider a demand, on the face of it just and reasonable and consistent with parental rights and with true religious education? Would the right hon. Gentleman not make some indication of a desire to meet demands so inherently and so intrinsically in accordance with common justice and with common sense? They would, no doubt, on the later clauses of the Bill, raise in substance the demand which he now made, but he did feel that the Committee ought not to pass from Clause 1 without the Minister in charge of the Bill getting up and telling the Committee how he proposed to meet the arguments which he had advanced, and what hope he could hold out to those who represented not a small minority in this country, that the demands which they said were intimately bound up with religion and parental rights would receive consideration at the hands of His Majesty's Government.

MR. BIRRELL said that if there was any truth whatever in the formidable allegation just made against the Bill—and for the moment in speaking of the Bill he meant Clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4—that it inflicted an intolerable injustice upon a vast number of the people of this country, then the Bill, even if it became an Act, was doomed to failure. It was, however, the belief of the Government that this measure, capable of improvement as it might be, did not inflict upon any considerable number of the people of this country, particularly on the parents of children in daily attendance in public elementary schools, between the ages of five and fourteen years, any injustice whatever. In the Church school the Catechism and the definite dogmatic teaching of the Church of England might be taught if only the owners were anxious that they should be taught. That surely was not putting too much upon the owners. If they made a bargain to that effect, the teaching must be given by the law of this country. [Cries of "No.] Certainly. If the local authority took the school and the conditions were accepted, these stipulations became obligatory and secure by law. What happened now in a large number of the Church of England schools? In Gloucester they used three days a week the Gloucester County Council Syllabus, and on two days the Catechism and the Prayer Book were taught. Apart from the question of the teacher, which would have to be most carefully considered, he saw very little difference between the religious instruction given in these schoos now and that which would be given under the Bill. Considering the matter from the point of view of substantial practice, he saw no reason why the Church of England should not have the satisfaction of knowing that, in the voluntary schools of the country, so far as they were taken over by the local authority, their children would still receive just the same manner of teaching as they did now. With regard to children in the provided schools, if a hardship was imposed upon the children of Church of England parents and other children who desired dogmatic teaching, all he could say was that the hardship was one which they had endured thirty-five years, and which the right hon. Gentleman opposite had made no effort to do away with. Exposed as he was to every kind of logical battery and artillery, he still believed that as a matter of fact the method of education adopted had given complete satisfaction. It was no use to say that a parent in a town was dissatisfied with a Board school education for his child because his second cousin in the country was able to send his child to a Church school. Although he would be glad if the practice suggested were possible in our Board schools, although there was nothing in it contrary or shocking to the senses, he had come to the conclusion that it would create greater ill-temper and more difficulty than the plan he proposed. But he submitted that the language of the right hon. Gentleman, if he would permit him to say so, was really grossly exaggerated. The protests which one received from parents were couched in language which seemed to make it plain that they did not apprehend what was before them. They seemed to imagine they would be deprived altogether of the opportunities of having their children taught the Catechism or the Prayer-book. He did not think that was at all likely to be the case; but if it was it would be the fault of the trustees of the schools, who would not negotiate with the local authority upon the terms suggested. He was perfectly satisfied of this much, that when syllabus teaching was properly developed and properly given, it would be found in no sense inconsistent with Church teaching of the Protestant persuasion, and entirely consistent with the wishes of the parents. He wished there were some means by which there could be placed before the parents the kind of teaching their children would get. He believed they would be perfectly satisfied, and would consider that there was provided in the vast majority of schools a system of religious education every bit as good as they could wish for. If they went into the matter with particularity it would be found, he believed, that hon. Gentlemen opposite wanted to teach the children something the parents did not desire. He thought the time had come when the Committee might come to a decision on the clause. There was no real or substantial difference in the Liberal Party about it, nor were there many people who took part in the recent general election in any doubt as to its being the natural outcome of that general election, when it was made plain that all public elementary schools should be placed under one control and become provided schools. When they came to Clauses 3 and 4, which they would have every opportunity after the recess for discussing, he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that every information would be, and would have to be, given to him and to the Committee as to the form those clauses were to assume. He hoped now right hon. Gentlemen were in favour of that clause. They received those clauses with scanty civility when they made their appearance. For a long time he thought they were going bitterly to oppose them and suggest alternative schemes. He rejoiced to think that those clauses now commended themselves to their minds, and only required to be strengthened in certain particulars. At all events the Government adhered to those clauses, and intended they should not be illusory. But when they were told that the syllabus teaching, which the Committee was becoming more and more acquainted with, had inflicted an intolerable injustice and a grievous sense of wrong on the mass of the parents, he could only say, with all courtesy, he did not believe it.

*Mr. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton) said he could not help feeling when the Minister for Education made his last speech this evening that he was surely one of the most unfortunate of men, because in spite of all his eloquence, ability, and power of expression he had failed to convince many Members even of his own Party of the reasonableness of his proposals. Those who sat below the gangway representing Ireland were irreconcilably opposed to the proposals of the Government. The almost unanimous hostility of the Roman Catholic Members ought to supply the right hon. Gentleman with a basis for reflection whether or not the boasts he made that the Bill considered fairly the claims of all denominations were justified. He could at least speak on one point of sympathy with, he believed, large numbers of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and that was that he did not happen to be a member of the Church of England. If he were sending his child to a public elementary school he himself would be satisfied with Cowper-Temple teaching. But upon what principle of justice and liberalism could they go to the hon. Member for North Louth and other Members below the gangway representing Ireland, or to the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone, and say to them, "We have here a syllabus which is admirably moral, and we have here a hymn of which I will read you a verse in order that you may satisfy yourselves"? That was exactly the line of argument adopted by the Minister for Education. Was the Party opposite, because it was in a majority, to force those who did not believe in this teaching to pay for it because the syllabus was moral or the hymns good? The Committee that day had rejected more than one scheme which would have swept away once for all this grievance. The opportunity had been deliberately flung away, and when they appealed to the country on this clause they would be able to say that they had advocated Amendments in respect of which not one opponent had said that they were unjust, and against which was only the unsupported allegation that they were unworkable. No one who had any experience of the permanent Education Department would believe that those proposals were unworkable, and when they went to the country which had been misled by the proposals of the Government they would be able to show that this clause was unjust, whereas Ministerialists could only idly allege that the proposals of the Opposition were unworkable. [Cries of "Divide" and "Order."]

Mr. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) moved to report progress as a protest against the interruption from the Ministerial benches.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot accept that Motion. [Opposition cries of "Why not?"] The 11 o'clock rule has not been suspended for nothing.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: On a point of order, I am well aware that a discretion lies in the Chair as to whether or not a Motion for adjournment should be put. But may I ask you whether, under the special circumstances that the debate on the clause which the Government have admitted to be the most important in the Bill has only been on for an hour, that those who oppose it have had, to put it mildly, extreme difficulty in getting a hearing, it would not be desirable for the Committee to adjourn to a period when the majority would be in a more patient temper, or at all events more disposed to allow the opponents of the clause to advance their arguments, however ineffectual, with a fair chance of being heard ?

THE CHAIRMAN : I must point out that I have not raised any objection to hon. Members advancing arguments. What I did say is that I cannot accept the Motion.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby) said he had listened with a great deal of pain to the speech of the Minister of Education. [Cries of "Divide," and interruption.]

THE CHAIRMAN appealed to the House to give the hon. Member a hearing.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY said he had listened to the speech of the Minister for Education with pain because he had hoped he would have given some indication of what he would do to meet the desires of a large number of people in this country who disagreed with the provisions of the Bill. He objected to the view, from whichever quarter it came, that the Bill was promoted with a view to meeting the vast majority of the Nonconformists of this country. There was a strong minority of Nonconformists in England who yet believed in the principle of religious freedom, and he thought that when they realised that the Bill in its main provisions, instead of establishing the principle of religious freedom, was aimed at destroying that principle and of placing under one particular form of teaching all the various religious bodies of the country, they would strongly resent the proposals. He understood that the grievance of the passive resister was that he objected to his money being taken for the payment for teaching certain religious beliefs in which he himself did not believe. If this Bill ever became law it was pretty clear that there would be a very large number of people paying for religion in the State schools in which they did not believe, and which they did not desire that their children should have taught to them. The right hon. Gentleman had said that he thought the Bill would meet the wishes of parents. How did he know that ? What right had the right hon. Gentleman to make that proposition unless he had asked the parents ? He happened to be chairman of an education committee educating nearly 20,000 children. He took that position in 1902 to endeavour to find out how the Act would fulfil the expectations of its promoters, and, speaking generally, he could say that the Act had fulfilled those expectations. He had been very much surprised that the Government had not asked the Education Committees what they had to say about this Bill. There was not an education committee throughout the length and breadth of the country whose opinion the Government had considered. Had the Government asked the parents of the children ? He himself had done more in that direction than the Government. He had caused a circular letter to be sent to various large education committees of England asking a number of questions. One was—

> "How many parents of children in your schools have complained, or have lodged a complaint with your Education Committee or the head teacher of the school, as to the religious teaching that has been given in the school since the Act of 1902 came into operation ? "

He got a reply from Liverpool—his connection with which the right hon. Gentleman said he was proud of—and to the effect that they had not had one complaint in their schools since 1902. He inquired of Bristol, which the right hon. Gentleman represented with so much distinction in this House, and that city also wrote that they had not a solitary complaint to make. Not one child in 100,000 in the schools in England had complained as a result of the Act of 1902. There were no people in the world more likely to make a religious grievance known than Englishmen. If parents were dissatisfied with the religious teaching given under the Act of 1902 there would have been multitudes of complaint long before this, but as a matter of fact there had been no complaints. To inform the country that they were satisfying a large body of Nonconformists by this Bill was stating something that was not true. What he desired was religious freedom for all sections of the community. He thought the Amendment they were discussing was directed towards that end and would provide the foundation for a settlement, and would give freedom to every parent to have taught what he desired. It was assumed that the Catholics would be satisfied with the provisions contained in Clauses 3 and 4, but he ventured to say that both those clauses would have to be very much amended in order to satisfy the wishes and desires of those who had a right to speak for the Catholics. Were the Government going to do for one section of the people what they refused to do for another section? Religious freedom and religious intolerance were great principles which could not be applied to one Church and refused to another. He felt that in not giving some expression of the real mind of the Government upon this question the President of the Board of Education was not acting fairly to the Committee or justly to the country, and that instead of giving satisfaction these proposals would create a greater storm than ever.

LORD R. CECIL said he thought the time had now arrived when a Motion to report progress might very properly be made. Clause 1 which was said to be the backbone of the Bill could not be adequately debated at that hour of the night. The Leader of the Opposition had explained to the Committee some of the injustices which appeared on the face of the clause apart altogether from its actual working. He wanted to present to the Committee the actual working of the clause as it appeared to those who were interested in the voluntary schools of the country. He had never under-estimated the injustice which was said to have been done to Nonconformists by the Bill of 1902, but in all those rural districts with which he happened to be acquainted the injustice complained of never had any practical existence. He wished to explain to the Committee how this clause would appear to Church people. He did not ask them to say that the clause was wrong, but he asked them to put themselves in the position of a Churchman in a quiet country parish in the South of England. There they had been accustomed to the schools being carried on by the Church and by the clergy. What would be the position of those schools under this Bill? Let the Committee consider the question from this point of view. The parents sending their children to those schools would conceive this Clause as one which would wantonly turn the clergy out of the schools. [Cries of "Hear hear" from the MINISTERIAL Benches.] Hon. Gentlemen opposite cheered that, and that was exactly the spirit of the Bill. It was not that they desired so much to remedy a grievance as to take vengeance on the Church. That was how the action of the Government would be understood in the parishes to which he was referring. Action of that kind had always been bitterly resented by Englishmen. It was that kind of conduct that brought about the expulsion of James II. from the throne. It was the petty personal injustice manifested in the way in which he treated certain individuals far more than any disapproval of his principles or the principles of his Government that brought about his downfall, and that was the kind of injustice the Government were going to inflict under this Bill in a number of small parishes in the South of England. That was quite apart from the actual logical injustice of not allowing Churchmen to teach their religion even at their own expense. It was the ejection of these clergymen from schools where there was no practical grievance that would be regarded as a wanton piece of injustice. It was said that Clause 3 was obligatory, that the local education authority might make an arrangement with the owner, but if they asked too much the arrangement would break down, and they had to go to the Commission of three, and there was nothing obligatory on the Commission of three. There was no appeal from them. When the President of the Board of Education asserted that the facilities under Clause 3 were obligatory he could only conclude that he had in his mind some draft of the Bill which had not yet been presented to the Committee. The right hon. Gentleman had concluded his speech by denying that any injustice was going to be done to the members of the Church of England, but had he been present at some of the public meetings which he himself had attended, he would never have made that statement. At the meeting held in the Albert Hall there were 10,000 people present, and for anyone to say that those people were not in earnest was positively ludicrous. He had never been more impressed by the earnestness of a meeting. If there were only these 10,000 people with a burning sense of grievance the Act could not remain on the Statute book. But before the Act was amended or abrogated there would be a period of great turmoil.

Lord HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said he did not think the discussion on Clause 1 should be terminated to-night. The problem now before the Committee affected the future education of the children of the country, and hon. Members who disapproved of the proposal of the Government would be failing in their duty if they did not in the strongest possible terms express their disapproval of, and even disgust at, Clause 1. The effect of the clause would be to abolish definite religious instruction in our schools. The extinction of the voluntary schools would open the door to secularism. While the basis of the Bill was secular, the bias of it was most certainly Nonconformist. The idea that religious teaching could be banished from the schools, and that parents in the middle of their daily work should undertake the duty of instructing their children in the religious beliefs which they thought to be right, was absolutely absurd. [An Hon. Member: Why not?] He did not for a moment suppose that if the parents had time and ability they would not willingly undertake the work.

* **The CHAIRMAN**: The noble Lord appears to be discussing what does not properly come under this clause.

Lord HELMSLEY said he was led away by the interruption. The alternative proposed by the Government of giving facility of entry to the schools might have some advantages, but he did not think it was a practical or desirable one.

* **The CHAIRMAN**: The matter which the noble Lord is discussing is not dealt with by Clause 1.

Lord HELMSLEY: May I ask if I am not at liberty to discuss the clause as a whole and not the alternative?

The CHAIRMAN: The noble Lord can discuss the clause as a whole.

LORD HELMSLEY said hon. Members opposite had tried to make out that Cowper-Temple teaching ought to be encouraged because the indefiniteness suited all creeds and all denominations, but the truth had come out at the eleventh hour that it was their definite religious teaching. That was the teaching which they wished to thrust down the throats of all the children in the country, no matter what the parents might wish the children to be taught. The hon. Member for Mid. Glamorganshire said this afternoon that it was essentially the right of the people of a locality to say that simple Bible teaching should be given to their children in the schools. There was not a clause in the Bill for the improvement of education or for settling the religious difficulties which had agitated Parliament and the country for the past thirty years. The fact came out more plainly as the debates proceeded that this was a Bill which more than anything else aimed a blow at the Church of England and at definite religious teaching, while endowing the system of religious instruction favoured by Nonconformists contrary to the wishes of the parents of the people of England.

MR. HADDOCK (Lancashire, North Lonsdale) said he wished to ask on what question the general election turned. Was it not on the question of Chinese labour?

THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Gentleman must remember that the question before the Committee was that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

MR. HADDOCK said that what he wanted to put out was that at a bye-election it had been decided that the parents should have the right to have their children brought up in their own religion. The Ministerialists had a large majority in the House, but had any attention been paid to the enormous number of petitions which had been presented against the Bill? There had been a cry all through the country that this Bill was intolerable.

* MR. J. F. MASON (Windsor) said that if this clause was passed as it now stood the result would be to give the children of the country a form of secular education. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had said that religious teaching could not be left in the hands of parents or Sunday schools. Perhaps it was said there might be some private individuals who had sufficient knowledge to impart religious instruction, but mere attainment of knowledge did not qualify a person to be an efficient teacher. His own idea was that if professional teachers were not allowed to give that instruction, religious teaching would have no avail. If that was to be the effect—which he really believed the majority of the people of this country would not submit to—what could the result be? The hon. Member for Leicester had made the remark the other day that parents had no right to demand religious instruction at the hands of the State. He himself contended that the parents, as parents, had no right to demand any education for their children at the hands of the State; they recognised the responsibility which lay on themselves. However, the State having given free and compulsory education to the children in the interests of the State and of citizenship, if the majority of the people of this country, who were the State, required that religious education should be given by professional teachers, and no teachers were available except the State teachers, it was now the duty of the State to undertake the counterpart of the work by giving

the necessary machinery for providing denominational religious instruction.

Mr. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 358, Noes, 169, (Division List No. 102.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agar-Robartes, Hon. T. C.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,John Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J.H.(Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm (Banff)
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Bolton, T. D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt.HnRichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J.(Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David(Montgomery Co.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon.Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L(Caithn'ss-sh.
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster

Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accringt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs.
Mackarness, Frederick C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Perks, Robert William
Philips, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'h
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G.Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Tr't)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (City Lond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hn. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward

Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone,E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down,E
Craik, Sir Henry
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay (Galw'y
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arhur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Haddock, George R.
Halpin. J.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent,Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazelton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F. (BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh)
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway,Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col.W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King,Sir HenrySeymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, Arthur H.(Hants,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A. R.
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Iver,Sir Lewis (EdinburghW
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompton, E. C.
Middlemore,John Throgm'rt'n
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East
Smith,F.E.(Liverpool, Walton
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S)
Stanley,Hon.Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Barry
Walker, Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson,A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 365; Noes, 162 (Division List No. 103.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agar-Robartes, Hon. T. C.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, JohnEmmott(Somerst
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W.C.B.(Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.

Benn, John Williams(Devonp't
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black,Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Bolton,T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce,J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Bules, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Camerson, Robert
Garr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Kni't
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbald, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J. (S.PancrasW.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David (MontgomeryCo
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duncan,C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel, T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert Jo'n
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
GordonJ. (Londonderry, South)
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M. (Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(SomersetN
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Liddell, Henry
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks,G. Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N.(Doncaster)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pual, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W.D. (Colchester)
Perks, Robert William

Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, CE(Edinburgh, Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.EB(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (WMonm'th
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, SirGScott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas, E. (Manchester
Scott, A H(Ashton-under-Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen,E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W. H. (Somerset)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds,S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York,W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJ.T.(Hudd'srf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn.Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh H.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn.J.(Birm.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway)
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, R. (Lanark, Govan)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants., W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F.(BurySEdm'ds)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir H. Seymour (Hull)

Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col Chas. W (Evesham)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholson, Wm. G (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, FE (Liverpool, Walton)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. (Ormskirk)
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt. Hn J G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond. Hon. Lionel
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Monday June 11th.

While the remaining Orders of the day were being read over, several hon. Members moved, but objection was taken in each case.

MR. MOONEY (Newry) on a point of order, asked whether it was competent for any Member of the House to move any Order of the day after 11.30 of the clock.

*MR. SPEAKER said if the hon. Gentleman would refer to Standing Order No. 1, Sub-section 8, he would find these words—

"Provided always that if any business exempted after the operation of this Order is disposed of the remaining business, etc." (*See* Standing Orders).

That meant that the Orders of the day have to be gone through.

MR. MOONEY said that under a further Standing Order, which was published in the amended Standing Orders, it was definitely stated that no business was to be entered upon at 11.30 of the clock, when Mr. Speaker automatically left the chair.

*MR. SPEAKER said he thought the Order remained exactly the same, only there was a change in the time. It was necessary for the House to go through the Orders.

MR. MOONEY said his point was, whether in going through the Orders of the day formally, it was competent for a Member to move a Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think if it stands as an Order of the day an hon. Member is entitled to move it.

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Monday evening, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty - eight minutes before Two o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 29th May, 1906.

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:

1. Post Office (Money Orders),
2. Seed Potatoes Supply (Ireland).
3. County of Aberdeen (Monymusk Bridge and Road) Order Confimation.
4. Cathcart District Railway (Superfluous Lands) Order Confirmation.
5. North Berwick Corporation Order Confirmation.
6. Metropolitan Police Provisional Order.
7. Crystal Palace Company.
8. Dover Harbour Board.
9. Kidderminster Gas.
10. H. R. Baines and Company.
11. Vauclain's Patent.
12. Bethnal Green Borough Council (Superannuation).
13. Millwall Dock.
14. Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway.
15. Sheffield Assay Office.
16. Carlisle Corporation.
17. Manchester and Milford Railway.
18. North Metropolitan Tramways,
19. Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society.
20. Milford Docks.
21. Mirfield Gas.
22. Thornton Urban District Gas.
23. Accrington District Gas and Water Board.
24. Great Eastern Railway.
25. Knott End Railway (Extension of Time).
26. Wallis' Divorce.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway; North and South Shields Electric Railway; Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply; London Brighton, and South Coast Railway; London United Tramways; Manchester Corporation.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, that the further Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed.

Read, and agreed to.

Portsmouth Water Bill [H.L.], reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.]; Truro Gas Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]; reported, with Amendments.

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.]; reported, with a further Amendment.

Southampton Gas Bill; reported, with an Amendment.

Holyhead Water Bill [H.L.]; Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill [H.L.]; read 2ª, and committed.

Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill; read 2ª, and committed, the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Ritz Hotel Bill [H.L.]; read 2ª (according to order).

Trent Navigation Company Bill [H.L.]; read 3ª; an Amendment made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway (Purchase) Bill [H.L.]; read 3ª;

an Amendment made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Epsom and Ewell Gas Bill; Huddersfield Corporation Bill; Bacup Corporation Bill; Cardiff Gas Bill; Uxbridge Gas Bill; Macclesfield and District Tramways Bill; Midland Railway Bill; London and South Western Railway Bill; Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill; Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; viz., E. Lauderdale (chairman), E. Bathurst, V. Falmouth, L. Kilmaine, L. Kensington; agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly; the Committee to meet on Tuesday, the 26th of June next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

Derby Gas Bill; Pontefract Corporation Bill; Rochester, Chatham, and Strood Gas Bill; Cheltenham Gas Bill; Edinburgh Corporation Bill; Metropolitan Railway Bill; South Suburban Gas Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª, and referred to the Examiners.

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill. Brought from the Commons, and read 1ª; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners. (No. 112.)

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, &c.) Bill [H.L.]. House in Committee (according to order), Bill reported without Amendment, Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Thursday the 14th of June next.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Marriages Provisional Order Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Read 2ª (according to order).

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday the 14th of June next.

London Government Schemes (London and Penge, &c.) Bill. Read 2ª (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

EDUCATION BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON No. 1) BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 agreed to.

Clause 4:—

LORD MONKSWELL, who had given notice to move, as an Amendment, the insertion of the following new clause after Clause 4, viz.:—

> "Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 92 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, the council may take such part of the lands, houses, and premises shown on Plan No. 6, and distinguished thereon by the Nos. 1 to 21, and of the land, house, and premises shown on Plan No. 8, and distinguished thereon by the No. 2, and described in the schedule to this Act, as they may require, without being required or compellable to purchase the whole or any greater part of any such lands, houses, and premises. The provisions of this section shall be stated in every notice given thereunder by the council to sell and convey any premises,"

said he explained the other day the object of his Amendment, and he did not think it necessary to repeat what he had then said or to add anything to it. He was perfectly willing, however, to accept the substituted Amendment which had been put down by the Earl of Camperdown, and he would not, therefore, move his Amendment.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN expressed his satisfaction that the noble Lord had seen his way to accept his Amendment. Their Lordships would remember that on the last occasion when the Bill was in Committee the Committee stage was postponed in order that they might look into his noble friend's Amendment and see what it meant. He (Lord Camperdown) had the opportunity afterwards of consulting the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees and his Department, and he ascertained that when it was a question of taking parts of a property only there was a model clause—Clause No. 29 in the Railway Lands Orders—dealing with such cases. That was the clause which he now moved should be inserted, and he was very glad that Lord Monkswell had accepted it. The new Clause standing on the Paper in the name of Lord Monkswell, but which the noble Lord had signified his intention of not moving, proposed merely to take parts of the land, and there was no reference in it to the compensation that was to be paid or to the question as to whether it was possible to take part of the land without materially injuring the rest. The model clause of their Lordship's House which he (Lord Camperdown), proposed to insert provided that the owners might, if certain portions of the land, etc., could, in the opinion of the jury or the arbitrators, be severed from the remainder without material detriment, be required to sell these portions only, the council paying for the portions required by them and making compensation for any damage sustained by the owners thereof by severances or otherwise. The model clause, therefore, provided that the county council were to pay, not merely for the part they took, but also for any damage which might be occasioned by the severance. That seemed to him the obviously fair and proper way of dealing with the matter, and he understood that that was also the view of the noble Lord in charge of the Bill.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 4, to insert the following new Clause—'And whereas in the exercise of the powers of this Act it may happen that portions only of the lands, buildings, or manufactories shown on the deposited plans may be sufficient for the purposes of the same, and that such portions may be severed from the remainder of the said properties without material detriment thereto; therefore notwithstanding Section 92 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, the owners of and other persons interested in the lands, buildings, or manufactories shown on Plan No. 6, and distinguished thereon by the Nos. 1 to 21, and on Plan No. 8, and distinguished thereon by the No. 2, and described in the schedule to this Act, and whereof parts only are required for the purposes of this Act, may, if such portions can in the opinion of the jury, arbitrators, or other authority to whom the question of disputed compensation shall be submitted, be severed from the remainder of such properties without material detriment thereto, be required to sell and convey to the council the portions only of the premises so required without the council being obliged or compellable to purchase the whole or any greater portion thereof, the council paying for the portions required by them, and making compensation for any damage sustained by the owners thereof and other parties interested therein by severance or otherwise.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

LORD MONKSWELL said this might be a model clause, but the sooner it was remodelled the better. What he objected to was the last sentence, because it raised some doubt as to the meaning of leaving out Clause 92 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act. By omitting that clause, as proposed in his (Lord Monkswell's) Amendment, they deprived the owner of one particular means of getting compensation only. The rights of the landlord with regard to damage in consequence of severance remained exactly as before; therefore it was unnecessary to insert the proposed provision, but as this was a model clause he did not wish to fight it.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clause agreed to, and Bill reported with Amendment to the House.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools, of teachers in schools at Salesbury; Bolton; Waterhead Oldham; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of maintenance of existing religious education in Church of England Schools, of parents and guardians of children attending schools in Bolton (2); Salesbury; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDIA (ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES, 1906–1907).

Explanatory memorandum by the Secretary of State for India.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Statistical Tables for the year 1905.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Calendar of the manuscripts of the Marquis of Ormonde, K.P., preserved at Kilkenny Castle. New Series, Vol. IV.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Orders made by the councils of the following metropolitan boroughs, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the respective boroughs—Lambeth; Battersea.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

JOURNAL COMMITTEE.

Report from, that the general index to ten volumes of the Journals, viz., from the one hundred and twenty-six to the one hundred and thirty-fifth, both inclusive (57th and 58th Vict.—3rd Edw. VII.) is ready for delivery: The same to be delivered in the usual manner.

TRADE REPORTS: (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3601. Spain (Canary Islands); No. 3602. Germany (Pomerania); No. 3603. Netherlands (Curaçoa); No. 3604. Peru (Iquitos).

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 651. French Mercantile Marine Laws.

TREATY SERIES No. 6, 1906.

Treaty between the United Kingdom and Spain for the marriage of His Majesty the King of Spain with Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria Eugenie Julia Ena; signed at London, May 7th, 1906. (Ratifications exchanged at London, May 23rd, 1906.)

CONVEYANCING BILL [H.L.].
SETTLED LAND BILL [H.L.].
MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY BILL [H.L.]

The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out, except to members of the Committee, and such other persons as the Committee shall think fit, until further order. (No. 113.)

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee without further Amendment: The Report of the Amendment made in Committee of the whole House to be received on Thursday, June 14th next.

COLONIAL MARRIAGES BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Standing Committee with an Amendment: The Report thereof to be received on Friday, June 15th next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 114.)

PRIVATE AND PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILLS.

Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 92, and 93, be suspended; and that the time for depositing petitions praying to be heard against Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, also the time for depositing Documents relating to any Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, which would otherwise expire during the adjournment of the House at Whitsuntide, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess.

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of PORTSMOUTH): My Lords, the object of this Bill is to amend the law relating to the Reserve Forces. Under the Reserve Forces Act of 1882, the Army Reserve is a force authorised to be kept up in the United Kingdom only. Many Reservists are anxious to reside in India and the Colonies, and it is extremely undesirable that they should be prevented from doing so. At present the services of Reservists so residing are practically lost, as there are no means of enforcing their liability to come up for annual training or when called out on active service. Clause 1 of this Bill allows Reservists to reside in India and the Colonies, and it also provides the necessary machinery for enforcing the liability for service of Reservists allowed to reside abroad.

This matter is one of some practical importance, as is shown by the fact that the number of Reservists residing at present in India is 322, and in the Colonies 3,619, and the number living abroad constantly tends to increase. Clause 1 also authorises the enlistment into the Army Reserve of men residing in India and the Colonies. The Colonial Office objected to the application of this provision to the self-governing Colonies on the ground that it would tend to diminish the incentive in those Colonies to provide an adequate force for Colonial defence. The self-governing Colonies have, therefore, been exempted from the provisions of the Bill so far as they relate to enlistment. As regards Clause 2, Section 14 of the Reserve Forces Act, 1882, prohibits the appointment and transfer of a Reservist to a corps which is not in the arm or branch in which he previously served, but gives him no right to insist on joining his former regiment. It is found that this limitation hampers the authorities in their mobilisation arrangements by the inelasticity which it imposes on the system, whilst, on the other hand, it does not secure to a Reservist any right of serving with his former comrades.

As an instance of the disadvantages of the present system I might cite the case of the Remount Department. This Department on a peace footing requires comparatively few men, but in time of war has to be enormously increased. The Department forms part of the Army Service Corps, but the Reservists belonging to the Army Service Corps are all required for transport service. On the other hand, there may be a considerable number of Cavalry Reservists who are not wanted for Cavalry service. Under the existing law these Reservists could not be required to serve in the Remount Department. The pay warrant can make the necessary provision to prevent the Reservist suffering in the matter of pay by reason of his being transferred to a branch of the service in which the pay is lower than that in which he served. This Bill is very much wanted, and I hope your Lordships will consent to give it a Second Reading.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: My Lords, this Bill is, I think, word for word a duplicate of the Bill which I was privileged to submit to your Lordships last year. I entirely agree that it is a Bill which is very much wanted, and I support the appeal of my noble friend that your Lordships should allow it to pass.

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and Committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday the 14th June next.

SEAMEN'S AND SOLDIERS' FALSE CHARACTERS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

***THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH**: My Lords, this is another Bill which is very much wanted, and I do not think it is in any way contentious. The object of Clause 1 is to provide a summary punishment for persons who make fraudulent use of good conduct certificates of discharge granted to seamen, soldiers, and marines. As the law stands at present it appears to be a misdemeanour at common law to forge a character or to utter a forged character, and presumably a person who personated the holder of a discharge certificate in order to obtain any advantage for himself would be guilty of cheating at common law; but these offences are punishable on indictment and not summarily. A precedent for a summary penalty is furnished by the Servants' Characters Act, but that Act clearly does not apply to soldiers' characters. As there are at present a large number of discharged soldiers, it is important to protect them and also the public against impostors. The power to proceed summarily will not interfere with the power to proceed by indictment in an aggravated case.

As showing the necessity for the legislation proposed by this clause I have had a great many typical cases furnished to me. I will only trouble your Lordships with two or three. In February, 1897, a man attempted to obtain employment at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, by means of a discharge certificate which he subsequently admitted was forged by himself. The Treasury Solicitor advised that no action could be taken. In August of the same year another man presented a certificate, subsequently proved to be a forgery, at the Employment Registry of the London Recruiting District. In this case the Treasury Solicitor advised that process should be applied for against him under the Servants Characters Act. This was done, but the magistrate at Bow Street refused the application on the ground that the Act applied only to domestic servants. In January, 1903, a man presented a certificate in which the original character had been erased and "excellent" had been inserted. The case was brought to notice by Lloyd's Patriotic Fund, but no action appears to have been taken.

The object of Clause 2 of this Bill is to prevent false characters being given by men offering themselves for enlistment. This provision has become all the more necessary now that a character is required from all persons who enlist. The clause also makes it an offence to give a false character if the person giving it allows or intends it to be used for the purposes of enrolment or enlistment in the Navy or Army. The clause is intentionally drawn so as to be wide enough to include false characters given by persons other than employers, such, for instance, as a friend or an acquaintance, or a schoolmaster. I have a number of curious cases showing the necessity of this clause. In February, 1904, a man came up at one of the out-stations and gave a reference which provided him with a good character for seven years. He was duly enlisted. He said he had never been convicted, but shortly after he had joined something cropped up which caused a letter to be written to the police about him. From the answer received it appeared that there was a long list of civil convictions against him, and that he had spent the whole of the seven years in prison and was known to the police as the worst man in the county. The man who had furnished him with this seven years' good character turned out to be his own brother in-law, who said he gave it to him as he wanted to get rid of him.

There was another case of a man who was discharged from the Army with ignominy. He re-enlisted, and was again discharged with ignominy. He enlisted a third time at Cardiff, and a character was obtained from a man to the effect that he had employed this individual for five years up to within the previous ten days, and that he had never served in the Army. The object of the Clause is to put a stop to proceedings of this kind. Clause 3 has been inserted for reversing the decision which was given in a recent case, to the effect that Section 16 of the Naval Enlistment Act, 1853, which imposes penalties on persons who make or give false statements upon entering or offering themselves for naval service, does not apply to a man entering the Naval Reserve Force. The ground of the decision seems to have been that as no Naval Reserve had been constituted at the time of the passing of the Act of 1853, and the nature of service in the Reserve Force is of an entirely different character from that of service in the Navy, the Act of 1853 would not apply to service in the Reserve without an express enactment to that effect. This is a Bill of considerable importance and of some urgency, and I hope your Lordships will give it a Second Reading.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I hope the language of the Bill is not that used by the noble Earl. I presume that the intention of the clause is not to reverse the decision, but to alter the law in accordance with the decision, which was rightly given in the case to which he referred, and to prevent that difficulty occurring again.

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday the 14th of June next.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

EARL BEAUCHAMP moved, on behalf of the Home Office, to amend Clause 3 "Reckoning of approved service in different forces," by making the period of approved service which a constable, who had retired without a pension and subsequently joined some other police force, was entitled to reckon at the end of his service in the first mentioned force, not less than "three" completed years.

The noble Earl said: My Lords, it is with considerable regret that I rise to move the Amendment which stands in my name. I will remind your Lordships of the circumstances. When the Bill was in Committee of the whole House an Amendment was moved by Lord Newton to the effect that there should be no limitation at all put upon the police constable changing from one service to another. On behalf of the Home Office I objected to the Amendment of my noble friend, and we came to a compromise by which the word "two" was introduced into the clause in the Standing Committee.

Since then, however, I regret to say it has been discovered by those concerned that the alteration trenches upon that somewhat debateable ground, the privileges of the other House. The pension of the constable is made up partly of deductions from his pay and partly from contributions out of the rates. Your Lordships will see that if it is made possible for a constable to get that pension when he has been two years in the first service instead of three it follows that a larger sum will have to be found out of the rates. A charge on the rates is thus involved, and that brings the clause as amended within that region of privilege into which this House does not generally go. It is rather a piece of constitutional purism; it is not a matter of very great importance, and I venture to say it is not worth discord. The police-constables of the country are, I believe, entirely satisfied with the original proposal of the Bill, and I beg, therefore, to move the Amendment, which will reinstate that proposal.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 17, to leave out sub-section (1); and in line 28, to leave out the word 'two' and to insert the word 'three'"—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

LORD NEWTON: My Lords, the statement of my noble friend is perfectly accurate as regards myself, but I am inclined to take some exception to one expression which he made use of. The noble Earl said in the course of his statement that it had been discovered by those concerned that this Amendment constituted a breach of privilege. Who are those concerned who have made this discovery? Surely the persons concerned are the House of Commons; but what I gather from the noble Lord's statement is that some well-meaning but officious personage, presumably a clerk, has pointed out that, in his opinion, this Amendment is a breach of privilege. Thereupon my noble friend, terrified by his action, has run away as fast as he could from his own Amendment. I suppose that I ought to sympathise with the noble Lord, because in his desire to placate me he has, apparently, almost involved this House in one of those grave constitutional struggles with another place which are foreshadowed in the prophetic imagination of persons who take a despondent view of the political future. I suppose I must congratulate him upon a fortunate escape.

I do not want to make a fuss about what is essentially a small matter, but I am bound to say that it appears to me to be a somewhat curious proceeding to invoke this tremendous weapon of privilege in order to defeat a trumpery Amendment of this description. If we are to be bound in the future by rulings of this kind it seems to me that our sphere of activity will be considerably circumscribed. With a little ingenuity it may be possible to show that almost any Amendment which is made in this House involves the further expenditure of money, and then your Lordships will have little power to alter or amend anything. My noble friend distinctly gave me an undertaking on behalf of the Government that this Amendment should be introduced into the Bill, and I hope the noble Lord will fulfil his promise and undertake to use his influence in another place to get the substance of the Amendment reinserted in the Bill.

The LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of Ripon): My Lords, I do not think my noble friend who represents the Home Office is in any way to blame in regard to this matter. No doubt there has been a mistake. I do not complain of the noble Lord opposite in the least degree. If anybody is to blame in the matter I think it is myself. I did not attend to the discussion when the Bill was going through as I ought to have done, or it would have suggested itself to me, with my long experience, that the alteration was inconsistent with what is understood to be the privilege of the other House. I have no doubt myself that it was inconsistent. The opinions which the Government have obtained are such as are entitled to weight, and I hope the House will consent to my noble friend's Amendment.

The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: My Lords, the noble Marquess and the noble Lord who represents the Home Office have explained the situation with great frankness. I think we are bound to accept the explanation. I have no doubt that the noble Lord who represents the Home Office has satisfied himself on the highest available authority that the matter is regarded as one of privilege. My noble friend behind me taunted the noble Lord with having allowed himself to be influenced by persons whom he described as well-meaning but officious personages, but it occurs to me that those personages may be the same to whom the other House of Parliament would appeal for guidance in a difficult case of the kind, and therefore the probability is that the view expressed by the noble Lord is that which would prevail.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill passed and returned to the Commons.

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS (REGISTRATION OF PATENT AGENTS) BILL [H.L.]

Read 3^a (according to order) and passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o'clock, to Thursday, the 14th of June next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, May 29th, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the clock.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went, and, having returned,

Mr. Speaker reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills (See page 233).

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

Cheltenham Gas Bill; Edinburgh Corporation Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Metropolitan Railway Bill (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed.

South Suburban Gas Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Bill [Lords] (by Order). Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill. Reported, with Amendments

[Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 241.]

London County Council (Money) Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Mersey Railway Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments [Title amended]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 4).

Sir GEORGE DOUGHTY reported from the Committee on Group 4 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday, 12th June, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment Bill. Second Reading upon Tuesday, 26th June.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to,—Police (Superannuation) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Marriages Provisional Order Bill, without Amendment.

New Mills Urban District Council Bill; North East Lincolnshire Water Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Law relating to Patent Agents." [Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (Registration of Patent Agents) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for granting the use of Schoolrooms for Public Meetings." [Elections (Meetings in Schoolrooms) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate the West Yorkshire Tramways Company; and to empower that Company to make and maintain tramways, tramroads, and other works; and for other purposes." [West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company to widen certain railways and to construct other works; to acquire additional lands; and for other purposes. [Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for conferring further powers upon the County of Durham Electric Power Supply Company; and for other purposes." [County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Company; and for other purposes." [Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the time for taking certain lands and for the construction of certain authorised works by the Southport and Lytham Tramroad Company and the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Southport; and for other purposes." [Southport and Lytham Tramroad (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend, extend, and define the borrowing powers of the Urban District Council of Newtownards in the county of Down; to improve and enlarge the gas undertaking of the said Council; and to make further provisions for the local government of their district." [Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for conferring further powers on the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company, and for effecting certain amendments of the Acts which regulate the Company; and for other purposes." [Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for uniting into one drainage district the two drainage districts in the parish of Warboys, in the County of Huntingdon, known as the First and Third Drainage Districts, constituted under an Act of the fifteenth year of King George the Third, chapter fifteen; and to amend that Act; and for other purposes." [Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for transferring to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Company, Limited, the undertakings authorised by the Whitley and Monkseaton Electric Lighting Order, 1901, and the Seghill, Earsdon and Tynemouth (Rural) Electric Lighting Order, 1902; and for other purposes." [Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for rendering valid certain Letters Patent granted to John Caeser Crellin for inventions for (1) An appliance for raising, lowering, supporting, and transporting portions of machinery and the like; (2) Improvements relating to lifting-jacks; and (3) Improved apparatus for raising, lowering, supporting, and transporting portions of machinery and like uses." [Crellin's Patents Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the closing and sale of certain churches in the city of Manchester, the extinction of certain ecclesiastical parishes and the merger thereof in other parishes in the said City; and for other purposes." [Manchester Churches Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Trent Navigation Company to construct certain new works for improving the Navigation of the River Trent between Wilden Ferry and Gainsborough, to confer further powers upon the Company; and for other purposes." [Trent Navigation Company Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for matters consequent on the purchase by the Secretary of State in Council of India of the railways and other property of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company; and for other purposes." [Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway (Purchase) Bill [Lords.]

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill [Lords); County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [Lords]; Cumberland Elecricity and Power Gas Bill [Lords]; Southport and Lytham Tramroad (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]; Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords]; Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [Lords]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Electric Supply) Bill [Lords]; Crellin's Patent Bill [Lords]; Manchester Churches Bill [Lords]; Trent Navigation Company Bill [Lords]; Bombay, Baroda, and Central India (Purchase) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

BOROUGH COURT (DUBLIN) BILL.

Petition from Dublin, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

BUILDING LANDS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petition from Dunnikier, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA AND CHINA (OPIUM TRADE).

Petitions for suppression; from Edinburgh; and Galston; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Adwell and South Weston (two); Alvechurch; Ashurst; Baglan (two); Broadway; Burstow; Chadderton; Colne (two); Felmersham; Felmersham with Radwell; Heanor; Knottingley (two); Manchester; Pen Selwood; Playford and Culpho; Ruswarp; Stalham; Stambermill; Stopsley; Sutton Bridge with Wingland; Swanton; and Swanton Morley; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LANDS VALUATION (SCOTLAND) ACT (1854) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) (No. 2) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Caithness; and Haddington; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; from Cheltenham; Oxford; and Wigan; to lie upon the Table.

SMALL HOLDERS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table.

SMALL TENANTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table.

STREET BETTING BILL.

Petition from Nelson, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TRADES UNIONS AND TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petition from Aberdeen, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petition of the Strand Union, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES (No. 6, 1906).

Copy presented, of Treaty between the United Kingdom and Spain for the Marrige of His Majesty the King of Spain with Her Royal Higness Princess Victoria Eugénie Julia Ena. Signed at London, 7th May, 1906. Ratifications exchanged at London, 23rd May, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES, 1906-7).

Copy presented, of Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Calendar of the Manuscripts of the Marquess of Ormonde, K.P., preserved at Kilkenny Castle, New Series, Vol. IV. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Hairdressers' and Barbers' Shops within the Borough [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Battersea, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Borough [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3605 to 3607 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Miscellaneous Series, No. 652 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

WARLIKE OPERATIONS (KILLED AND WOUNDED).

Address for "Return of the number of sailors and soldiers killed or wounded in war or warlike operations carried on by the Government of this Country and chartered companies during the years 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1903, respectively (exclusive of those carried on by the Government of India), in the same form as the Return granted in Session 1895."—(*Mr. Morton.*)

EDUCATION ACT, 1902 (RATES RAISED UNDER SECTION 18 (1).

Return ordered, "by the County Council of each Administrative County in England and Wales, except London, of particulars as to the amounts received during the year ended the 31st day of March, 1906 (or, if the particulars are not available, then during the year ended the 31st day of March, 1905) from Rates raised under Section 18 (1) (c) and (d) of The Education Act, 1902, over parts only of the area under the Council for purposes of Elementary Education :—

Name of Parish.	Assessable Value according to the County Rate Basis.	Amount of Rate raised under Section 18 (1).	Rate in the £.

—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Return ordered, "of Applications for Licences under The Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1904, showing how each Application has been dealt with, and of Statistics of Messages to and from Ships at sea exchanged between the Post Office and the Marconi Company during each quarter from January, 1905, to March, 1906, inclusive."—(*Mr. Dickinson.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Dyeing of Navy Cloth.

MR. BRIGHT (Oldham): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the rule that all cloth goods supplied to the Admiralty must be dyed with vegetable indigo is still in force; and, if so, whether the attention of the Admiralty has been called to the fact that the chemically produced indigo is identical in composition with the vegetable product, cheaper to dye, enters more intimately into the structure of the yarn or cloth, and is equally permanent.

MR. JOWETT (Bradford, W.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will explain why the employment of synthetic indigo is still prohibited for Navy contracts, seeing that several other Departments of State, when inviting tenders for the same class of material, leave the employment of either plant or synthetic indigo optional; and in view of the expert evidence and practical experience, extending over several years, showing that synthetic indigo is equal to plant indigo as regards application and dyeing, and in view of the fact that synthetic indigo is decidedly cheaper than plant indigo of equal strength, will he consider the advisability of permitting its use in Navy contracts.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) It has been decided to carry out trials of serge dyed with the synthetic indigo in order to ascertain its suitability for the requirements of the Naval Service.

Delays in the Operation of the Land Act.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware of the dissatisfaction, both to landlord and tenants, in the operation of the Land Act of 1903 on account of the delays that are taking place in the Land Commissions; whether he is aware that those having charges on their estates, having to meet interest arising, are obliged to meet the difference between the interest in lieu of rent and the amount of the interest on the different charges; whether the Estates Commissioners have money to meet the different estates whose agreements were lodged before September, 1904; and, if so, what is the cause of the delay that has taken place in the proceedings.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) It is, I fear, the case that some inconvenience has been caused, both to landlords and tenants, by the delay which has occurred in making advances. The hon. Member is, I think, mistaken in assuming that this delay is preventable. When the Irish Land Bill of 1903 was introduced the sum of £5,000,000 a year was named as the highest rate at which purchase could take place for the first three years. This rate has been considerably exceeded, and it is estimated that by the end of three years from the commencement of the Act nearly £20,000,000 will have been issued in advances, exclusive of the amount of the bonus.

Evicted Tenants on the Coolroe Estate.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-

Lieutenant of Ireland whether applications for restoration under the Land Act of 1903 have been received by the Estates Commissioners from the Coolroe evicted tenants; whether the landlord has signified his intention to sell to them; and whether any progress has been made as regards restoring them to their homes.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have received applications for reinstatement on different estates from six persons in the district in question. It is presumed that the estate specially referred to is that known as the Coolroe Estate, of which the former owner was Mr. James E. Byrne. The Commissioners are negotiating with the present owner, Mr. T. D. Place, for the purchase of the property, and if they should acquire it, the applications of the evicted tenants will receive full consideration.

Salaries of School Teachers at Handsworth.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that there are three schools in Handsworth, near Sheffield, and that whilst the head teacher in the Church of England school draws a salary of £160, the salary of the head teacher in St. Joseph's Catholic School has been cut down to £90, although the number of children in each of these schools is practically the same; and will he have an inquiry made into the action of the local education committee, with a view to equalising these salaries.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I find that the matter referred to came before the Board of Education a year ago, and a letter was then written on the subject. Since then nothing has been heard of it, and the Board supposed the matter had been settled. If the managers renew the subject I will see that it is carefully investigated.

Irish Agricultural Organisation Society's Grant.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will give an itemised account of the expenditure of the £19,000 paid by the Agricultural Department to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society up to February 28th last, showing the salary of each individual employed in connection with this grant, expenses of each individual so employed, and to what extent such salaries and expenses were paid out of grant of £19,000; a detailed account of all other purposes to which this £19,000 was devoted; and whether properly audited and vouched accounts of all moneys paid by the Department to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society are submitted to the Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Department of Agriculture are prepared to give an itemised account showing the salary and expenses paid in respect of each official of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society employed by the Department for each quarter in the period from April 1st, 1900, to February 28th, 1905, and also the amount paid for any other expenses. This Return will, however, take some time to prepare, as it will embrace a large number of items extending over nearly five years. The grant-in-aid of £2,000 for the year from 1st of March, 1905, to 28th February, 1906, was paid to the society in monthly instalments on the certificate of the representative of the Department who investigated the work done, as indicated in the weekly reports of the several organisers employed by the society, and who carefully examined the claims for remuneration and travelling and incidental expenses before giving his certificate. A similar plan has been adopted with regard to the expenditure of the £3,700 estimated for the twelve months ending 28th February, 1907. The accounts of the Department are sent monthly to the Comptroller and Auditor-General in pursuance of Section 25 of The Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, together with all vouchers, to be audited in accordance with the Treasury regulations. The account of the Department's Endowment Fund is published annually in the Appropriation Account, and is certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General. Statements of all expenditure out of the funds placed at the disposal of the Department, the application of which is subject to the concurrence of the Agricultural Board, are laid periodically before the Board.

Appointments in the Sultan of Zanzibar's Government.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any complaints or evidence that vacancies in the Sultan of Zanzibar's Government have been farmed by His Majesty's officials serving in Zanzibar.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The Answer to this Question is in the negative.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he will place upon the Table a statement of the reasons which actuated His Majesty's Government to terminate the services of Mr. A. S. Rogers, lately Regent and Prime Minister to the Sultan of Zanzibar; and if such dismissal had the approval or sanction of the Sultan, under whom the Regent was serving.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) His Majesty's late Government advised the Sultan of Zanzibar to terminate the arrangement under which Mr. Rogers was acting as First Minister, in pursuance of the policy initiated on the death of the late Sultan of strengthening their direct control over the internal administration of the country. The Sultan is bound, by the conditions he agreed to on his accession, to follow loyally and faithfully the advice given him by His Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in all matters relating to the government and administration of the Sultanate. There are no Papers which could usefully be laid on the subject.

National Bank of South Africa and Government Accounts.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether an agreement has been made with the National Bank of South Africa whereby the Transvaal Government account will be kept at that bank until 1909; whether any tenders had previously been asked for from other local banks; whether the National Bank of South Africa is registered under the English Companies Act; and whether the shares are fully paid up, so that creditors have no reserve fund on which to rely in times of financial difficulty.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Answer is in the affirmative. The bank, as part of the agreement, abandoned any claims which it might have against the Transvaal Government under the old concession with regard to such matters as the issue of notes or coinage of money. Tenders were not called for. The bank is incorporated under the Transvaal Ordinance 16, of 1902, under which the shares were to be deemed to be fully paid up.

Cambridge Cottage, Kew, as a Forestry Museum.

CAPTAIN BALFOUR (Middlesex, Hornsey): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he can state whether it is intended to utilise the gift to the Nation by the Crown of Cambridge Cottage at Kew as a forestry museum; and, if so, what steps are being taken to carry this purpose into effect.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) His Majesty having been graciously pleased to devote the house and grounds of Cambridge Cottage to the service of Kew Gardens, it is proposed to utilise the additional accommodation thus made available for the purposes of a museum illustrative of forestry, pomology, and the diseases of farm and garden crops. Steps will be taken for this purpose as soon as the necessary funds are available.

Navy Shipbuilding Programme.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, with the statement of the details of vessels now under construction, which is to be issued prior to the discussion of Votes 8 and 9 of Navy Estimates, there will be included details of the four armoured ships which the House is to be asked to sanction; and whether he can now say how many of these armoured ships are to be battleships.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) I am not in a position to make any statement, as the subject is now under consideration.

Promotion of Assistant Clerks.

MR. THORNTON (Clapham): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that a number of unsuccessful competitors at the examination of second division clerkships, held in October, 1905, have been declared successful since the announcement of the result of the examination, due consideration has been given to the claims of assistant clerks for promotion in those offices where second division vacancies exist; and whether, should a further number of second division clerks be required before the result of another second division examination is known, he is prepared to grant the appointments to assistant clerks, under the provisions of the Order in Council of the 29th November, 1898, as amended by the Order in Council of 15th September, 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The Treasury can only approve such promotions on the recommendation of the head of a department. When such recommendations are made the Treasury give them every consideration, as may be seen from the Answer which I gave to the hon. Member for Fulham on the 26th March last.† The hon. Member is no doubt aware that the promotion of assistant clerks to the second division is intended to be exceptional and can only be made on the ground of special merit.

Customs Staff.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can give the total of the Customs Vote, the number of those employed on the indoor staff and the outdoor staff respectively, and the amount of the Vote devoted to each branch.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) As shown on page 3 of the Estimates for the Revenue Departments for the current financial year, the total of the Customs Vote is:—

	£
Gross total	1,007,250
Deduct—	
Appropriations in aid .	54,550
Net Total .	£952,700

The number of the established officers provided for in the Estimates and the amount of the Vote allocated to each branch of the service, are as summarised in the following table:—

Distribution of Vote.	Number of staff.	Amount allocated to each branch.
Indoor staff:		£
Superintending establishment .	316	73,350
Port establishment . . .	579	120,670
Total Indoor	895	194,020
Outdoor staff:		
Port establishment . . .	3,099	478,840
Grand total	3,994	672,860
General charges not specifically allocated to either indoor or outdoor staffs, namely:		
Non-Established Services, Travelling and Removal Expenses, Vessels, Instruments, Law Charges, Superannuation Allowances, &c.	—	334,390
Grand total of Customs Vote as shown above	—	£1,007,250

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† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 840.

Customs Warehouse at Leith.

Mr. HUNT: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will explain why Customs bonded warehouses in Leith are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in charge of the warehouse keeper only, the attendance of the officer depending upon the request of the warehouse keeper, notwithstanding the fact that public-houses are situated in very close proximity.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The Customs bonded warehouses at Leith, as at all other ports, are under the continuous supervision of the Customs staff during the hours within which such warehouses are allowed to be open. At the more important warehouses at Leith one or more officers are constantly present. At the smaller warehouses, some of which are only occasionally open for business, officers are in constant attendance while operations are in progress; at other times these warehouses are visited at frequent and irregular intervals as business may require, and to an extent sufficient to ensure the due protection of the revenue. None of the Customs bonded warehouses in Leith are in closer proximity than the regulations permit to any premises in which duty-paid stocks of wines or spirits are kept.

Endowment of Irish Agricultural Department.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny, N): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will state the source or sources from which the Department presided over by Sir Horace Plunkett is endowed, and the amount from each source, during the year ended March 31st last.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The Endowment Fund, ordinarily so-called, was created by Section 15 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899. The sums received under the various sub-sections of the section are as follows:—

		Source.
1. Sub-section (a)	£78,000	Local Taxation (Ireland) Account.
2. Sub-section (b)	£70,000	Irish Church Temporalities Fund Surplus.
3. Sub-section (c)	Net Receipts in 1905–6 £442 14s. 5d.	
		Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund.
4. Sub-section (d)	£12,000	Parliamentary Vote.
5. Sub-section (f)	£6,000	Parliamentary Vote.

6. Capital sums were received in the years 1900–1901, 1901–2, and 1902–3 under Sub-sections (e) and (g) amounting to £19,890 5s. and £185,015 15s. 2d. respectively. From miscellaneous sources further annual receipts were derived during the year in question to the amount of £14,000, viz.:—

	£
7. From the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account under the provisions of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) (No. 2) Act, 1902 . . .	5,000
8. From the Ireland Development Grant . . .	7,000
9. From the Congested Districts Board (contribution towards the cost of the agricultural schemes carried out by the Department in congested districts) . .	2,000

The Parliamentary Vote for the Department was in 1905–6 £191,692 (including £18,000 under headings (4) and (5) above and £25,000 for the Congested Districts Board).

Secretary to the Treasury and Civil Service Employees.

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will consider the desirability of holding direct communication with the duly elected representatives of Civil Service organisations similar to the manner in which His Majesty's Postmaster-General receives the representatives of Post Office employees.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) Any representations from such organisations on matters affecting the interests of civil servants should be addressed to the authorities of the departments in which the officers concerned are employed. In any case in which the Treasury is directly responsible I shall at all times be ready to receive representations from organisations interested in the matter.

The Yardley Charity.

MR. JOWETT: To ask the hon. Member of the Elland Division, as a Charity Commissioner, whether he is aware that the governors of the Yardley Charity Estates have neglected and now refuse to furnish the Yardley Rural District Council, East Worcestershire, at the request of the Yardley parish meeting, with the names of the dole beneficiaries, in order that they may publish them in compliance with Section 14 (6) of The Local Government Act, 1894; and that the accounts already furnished are not in the form prescribed by the Charity Commissioners and do not give the necessary details; and whether he will give directions to the charity governors to forthwith furnish the information desired by the parish council in compliance with the statute; and also to furnish detailed accounts for the information of the Yardley parishioners.

(*Answered by Mr. Trevelyan.*) The Commissioners have applied to the Governors of the Yardley Charity Estates for an explanation of the matters mentioned in the hon. Member's Question, and will, if necessary, take steps to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements.

Financial and Industrial Condition of Poplar.

MR. CROOKS: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the Report of the general inspector on his preliminary inquiry into the financial and industrial conditions of Poplar, recently held; and whether a copy of such Report will be sent to the guardians before the public inquiry opens on June 7th.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) No formal Report has been made to me by the inspector who has been making the preliminary investigation referred to. As a result of that investigation, he prepared a statistical memorandum bearing upon the pauperism in the Poplar Union, and a copy of this memorandum has been sent to the guardians.

Value of Public Houses on the Estates of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the hon. Member for East Bristol, as Church Estates Commissioner, whether he is in a position to state the approximate value to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of the 336 public houses which were on their estates in 1905; the total annual rental of the sixty-four leases or tenancies for public houses which have been renewed or extended by the Commissioners since December 31st, 1899; the annual rental of the two new public houses for which leases have been granted by the Commissioners during that period; and whether he can state the names and localities in which they are situated of the public houses whose licences will expire before Christmas, 1910, and which the Commissioners do not intend to suppress.

(*Answered by Mr. Hobhouse.*) The Ecclesiastical Commissioners feel that some of the information desired could not be made public without embarrassing them in the management of their estates, and some could not be procured without great labour and expense. I regret, therefore, that I am unable to supply all the particulars for which the hon. Member asks; but I am able to state that,—(1) the annual rents reserved to the Commissioners on the sixty-four renewed leases of public houses (in which are included hotels as, for instance, the Westminster Palace Hotel) amount to £11,158 19s. 10d., but other properties are in a few cases comprised with the public houses in the same leases; and (2) the rents reserved in the leases of the two new public houses are ground rents only, the buildings being erected by the lessees, and amount to £34 6s. per annum.

Constitution of the Technological Institute at South Kensington.

MR. BUTCHER (Cambridge University): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether in view of the criticisms passed upon the proposed constitution of the new Technological Institute at South Kensington, and of the bearing which the establishment of such an institute may have upon post-graduate training in science, he is prepared to arrange for the adequate representation of other universities besides London on the governing body.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The question presents many difficulties in view of the large number of universities now in existence in the United Kingdom, between whose claims for representation it would be difficult justly to differentiate. But the matter is having my careful consideration.

Stock Issued Under the Irish Land Act.

MR. ASTBURY (Lancashire, Southport): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the fact that the total amount of stock issued under the Irish Land Act, 1903, is stated in the London Stock Exchange daily official list as £11,000,000, whereas the correct amount at March 31st last was £13,201,444 8s. 9d.; and whether he can say how this discrepancy arises, and give a statement showing when and in what manner the various issues have been made, the amount of stock issued on each occasion, and the net amount of cash realised.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) Yes. The amount given in the Stock Exchange list is the total which has been offered to public subscription. The figure I quoted in the House represented the total issued up to March 31st last, and included £2,201,444 8s. 9d. stock issued to the National Debt Commissioners. The subjoined Table, which gives particulars of all issues to date, will make the matter clear, and in future, in order to enable the publishers of works of reference to keep their information up to date, I propose whenever stock is issued otherwise than by public subscription to notify the fact in the *London Gazette*:—

Guaranteed 2¾ per Cent. Stock.

Details of stock issues to May, 1906.

Date of Issue.	Amount of Issue.	Net Amount of Cash raised.	Note.
	£	£	
March, 1904	5,000,000	4,337,122	A.
January, 1905.	6,000,000	5,354,332	B.
2nd January, 1906	1,103,448	1,000,000	C.
26th February, 1906 . . .	1,097,996	1,000,000	D.
6th April, 1906	1,000,000	920,292	E.
	14,201,444	12,611,746	

A. Offered to public subscription at a fixed price of 87.

B. Offered to public tender subject to a minimum of 88½—average price of tenders £89 8*s*. 8*d*.

C. Issued to National Debt Commissioners at £90 12*s*. 6*d*. — x.d.*

D. Issued to National Debt Commissioners at £91 1*s*. 6*d*. — x.d.*

E. Issued to National Debt Commissioners at £92 0*s*. 7*d*. — x.d.*

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* The average price of the stock on the day on which the issue was made as certified by the Bank of England.

Indian Financial Statement—Explanatory Memorandum.

MR. ROWLANDS (Kent, Dartford): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will consider the advisability of restoring the explanatory memorandum of the current Indian financial year as near as possible to the form of that in 1899–1900, substituting for the tables of revenue and expenditure pages 28–48, Appendix II., the Indian Finance Department's Appropriation Report, also that the amounts of the Home charges be shown in rupees-ten as well as in sterlign, so as to show the actual cost of the charges as borne by the Indian revenue.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I propose to retain, subject to such modifications in detail as may suggest themselves, the new form which was adopted in 1903. It appears to be an improvement on the form used in 1899–1900, as showing the chief facts with greater clearness and simplicity. The latest Appropriation Report is a document of nearly 200 pages. It has already been printed in the *Gazette of India*, and will in due course be issued, as usual, as a separate publication. I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by reprinting it specially as an Appendix to the Explanatory Memorandum. It was decided in 1900 to abandon the practice of showing in tens of rupees the charges in England which are, as a matter of fact, paid in sterling; and I see no advantage in reversing this decision.

Irish Harbour Boards.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will give the names of the Irish Harbour Boards whose expenses fall, either partly or wholly, on the local rates, the actual amount borne in each case by the local rates, the valuation on which the cost falls, rate per pound paid, the total number of members on each Board, the number representing the ratepayers, and the manner in which the ratepayers' representatives are selected.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) With the exception of those cases in which the Board of Works are themselves the harbour authorities, the harbour authorities in Ireland are bodies constituted by Statute or Provisional Order prescribing the manner of their selection, and are not under the control of any public department in Ireland. I have no information as to the expenses of harbour boards which fall on the local rates beyond that which the hon. Member will find in the Local Taxation (Ireland) Returns annually laid upon the Table of the House. I am, however, informed by the Board of Works that, in the case of five harbours, loans which have been made by the Board, are secured on local rates in addition to the security of the harbour revenue; and the loan charges either actually or potentially involve a charge on the rates. The amount borne by the local rates in each of these cases during the last year was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Tralee and Fenit Pier and Harbour . . .	4,797	10	0
Arklow Harbour . .	1,141	14	2
Wicklow Harbour . .	2,773	6	8
Galway Harbour . .	Nil.		
Kinsale Harbour . .	276	11	9

In addition, a loan for Ardglass Harbour, of which the Board of Works are the harbour authorities, is repaid in part by the Down County Council, and £234 6*s.* 4*d.* was paid by the body last year. A reference to the several Statutes and Orders constituting harbour authorities in Ireland will be found in House of Commons' Paper, 325, of 1903.

Unoccupied Land on the Estate of Richard Thompson, in County Fermanagh.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received in connection with the small estate of Richard Thompson, in county Fermanagh, any application for an allotment of unoccupied land on behalf of John Thompson, of Cantytrindle, Ballinamallard; and if the Estates Commissioners will accede to the application.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they received the application mentioned, and have referred it to one of their inspectors for inquiry and report. They are unable to say whether they will accede to the application until they have received and considered their inspector's report.

Fishery Laws of the Lough Erne District.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the fishing on Lough Erne is open to all His Majesty's subjects, the bed and soil of the lake being vested in the Crown; and whether, seeing that the salmon and trout fishing therein has seriously declined in recent years owing to want of preservation, illegal netting, and destruction of spawning fish in the rivers flowing into the lake, he will consider the expediency of having the fishery laws in the Erne district enforced by the Royal Irish Constabulary, under 7 and 8 Vic., c. 108, s. 1.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The hon. Member is mistaken in assuming that the public have the right to fish in Lough Erne. The bed and soil are vested in the Crown and are under the management of His Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests; and I am informed that the fishing of the lough is also vested in the Crown, subject to certain ancient rights of fishery conveyed by Crown grants, and is under the like management. The duty of protecting the fisheries rests primarily with boards of conservators. The constabulary enforce the fishery laws so far as the public interests are concerned and their other and paramount duties permit.

Labourers (Ireland) Act and Irish Rating.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say how the unions in Ireland, as in the county of Limerick, where the one shilling in the £ limit is reached, or nearly so, will be affected by the Labourers (Ireland) Bill; and whether, without increasing the rate limit, more cottages can be built within the unions under it.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) It is expected that in rural districts in which the existing limit is nearly reached, many additional cottages can be built without exceeding that limit. It is not possible at such short notice to make accurate calculations as regards a given district, but it is estimated that the rural districts in the county Limerick would, by reason of the facilities offered in the Labourers Bill, be able to borrow further sums, amounting to from £20,000 to £25,000 without exceeding the existing limit. I may also refer the hon. Member to Clause 12 of the Bill.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Osborne Cadets' Expenses.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether a payment of £75 per annum has to be made in respect of each cadet at Osborne by the parent; whether, in addition, there are not charged to the parents term fees amounting to about £24 per annum; whether the parent has not in addition to face charges for examination fees on entry, travelling expenses, uniform, chest, book, sextant, and maintenance during holidays, which together bring up the cost to from £135 to £150 per annum, or from £540 to £600 for the four years' course; and, if so, whether the Admiralty will take steps to cut down the burden on the parents.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The Admiralty are not prepared to reduce the fees charged at Osborne, which are £75 per annum, except in the case of a limited number of cadets admitted at the reduced fee of £40 per annum. It is not known to what additional fees the hon. Member alludes. The expenses incurred on behalf of the cadets in respect of travelling to and from the college, renewals and repairs of clothing, instruments, books, drawing materials, washing, school stationery, sports fund, etc., average at Osborne about £22 a year. The first cost of the outfit, including sea chest and clothing, is about £40. No estimate can be given of the expenses incurred by the parents for clothing and maintenance during the holidays.

Crime in the Army.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): On behalf of the hon. Member for St. Pancras, E., I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the increase in the number of prisoners committed to military prisons at home and abroad (excluding India), as shown on page 8 of [Cd. 2699] the Report on Military Prisons, 1905; and if he will explain this increase, seeing that the number of committals has gone up from 6,655 in 1896, when the average Army strength at home and abroad (excluding India) was 139,305 to 19,461 in 1905, when the average strength was only 188,570; what action does he propose taking to stop an increase of 192 per cent. in committals to prison in the space of ten years during which the increase in the average strength has been only 35 per cent.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): If my hon. friend will kindly refer to the footnote below the figures, which he mentions, he will find the explanation of a large portion of the increase. The increase in the number of men awarded sentences of imprisonment by the commanding officers is due to these men being committed to a military prison, instead of, as formerly, to provost or barrack cells. This explanation also applied to court martial sentences not exceeding forty-two days, which prior to 1902 were carried out in provost prisons, and as these are now classed as military prisons the figures for the latter have correspondingly increased.

Flogging of Chinese Coolies—Case of the Crœsus Mine Manager.

MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether in the case of Witthauer, the compound manager of the Crœsus mine in the Transvaal, who admitted to the superintendent of foreign labour in the presence of witnesses that he was responsible for the flogging of Chinese coolies in the mines, criminal proceedings have been yet taken to vindicate the law; and, if not, will he explain why.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): Lord Selborne has assured the Secretary of State that he is most anxious for the prosecution of Witthauer and that every effort is being made to obtain sufficient evidence on which to prosecute.

Protection against Chinese Coolies.

MR. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he can now inform the House what measures His Majesty's Government have decided to sanction for the protection of the inhabitants of the Transvaal from the outrages committed by the Chinese coolies imported by the gold mining companies.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am not yet able to inform the House, as the question of the measures to be adopted is still under consideration.

*MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) asked whether one method of reducing the outrages would not be to alter the fugitive slave law, which made it a penal offence to give food, shelter, or employment to escaped Chinese coolies.

MR. CHURCHILL said he was not aware of the existence of any such law. Of course, the coolies had no right to be employed when they were absent from their regular employment. He thought the matter was one which must be taken into consideration in connection with the measures which Lord Selborne would recommend.

*MR. LUPTON asked whether the hon Gentleman would see whether the original Ordinance had been altered. Under that law, he repeated, the giving of shelter, food, or employment to an escaped Chinaman was prohibited, making outrage and murder inevitable unless the Chinaman was to die.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland) asked whether these coolies were treated as fugitive slaves.

MR. CHURCHILL said he did not quite know what the question meant. It was true that when caught fugitive coolies were sent back to the mines, but he had no knowledge whether any inhumanity was suggested.

MR. CHURCHILL (replying to Mr. LEHMANN, Leicester, Market Harborough), said he would probably be able to make a statement on this matter after Whitsuntide. It had already been decided that the proposals in regard to barbed wire fences should not be carried any further, and the question of the improvement of the police at the cost of the mineowners was now engaging attention.

British Trade in Zambesia.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for the Colonies whether he is aware that the British concession at Chinde is rapidly disappearing owing to erosion; and whether he will instruct the Commissioner to make early arrangements with the Portuguese representatives in Zambesia in order to protect British Trade.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am aware that the British concession annually suffers considerable loss from erosion, but at the rate at which that erosion is going on it is computed that it will be many years before the concession ceases to be available, and the Secretary of State is of opinion that under these circumstances the arrangements which might be necessary for the protection of British Trade in the event of the complete disappearance of the concession ought to receive very careful and deliberate consideration.

British Central Africa Protectorate.

MR. REES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, having regard to the fact that the produce of the British Central Africa Protectorate is only allowed to enter the Transvaal Colony free of duty in return for permission to recruit native labour in the Protectorate for the Transvaal mines, and to the fact that owing to the mortality of such natives engaged in the mines the stoppage of such recruiting in the Protectorate is anticipated, the Colonial Office can arrange that the produce of the Protectorate shall continue to enter the Transvaal Colony free of duty; and whether the Colonial Office will consider the desirability of including the British Central Africa Protectorate in the projected South African Customs Union, so as to ensure the permanent free interchange of produce and merchandise between the Protectorate, the Transvaal, and other South African Colonies in order to the development of the said Protectorate.

MR. CHURCHILL: I hope that it will be possible to arrange that the present free importation shall continue. The necessary provision has been retained in the draft Customs Convention. By the General Act of the Conference of Berlin, and a Declaration of 2nd July, 1890, made under the General Act of the Brussels Conference, it is not permitted in the British Central Africa Protectorate to impose an import duty higher than 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. So long, therefore, as Great Britain remains a party to these Acts, and the South African Union Tariff exceeds 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, it is impossible to include the Protectorate in the South African Customs Union.

Congo Free State—Case of Silvanus Jones.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if any action has been taken or is in contemplation by His Majesty's Government in regard to the case of Silvanus Jones, a British subject of Lagos, sentenced to five years' imprisonment by the appeal court at Boma, Congo Free State, on 15th March, 1904, for alleged complicity in the murder of a woman; if His Majesty's Government are aware that the accused denied the charges against him, that he was unprovided with counsel, and was not given the opportunity of securing such; and if His Majesty's Government will take steps to remove British subjects in the Congo from the position in which they stand towards the Congo executive and judiciary.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): Consul Nightingale has recently reported that Silvanus Jones died in hospital last March. He did deny the charges against him, but it does not appear that they were unfounded or false, and the result of the inquiry made by my Predecessor, referred to in the answer to the hon. Member's question of May 18th, 1904 † was to show that Jones must have been aware that criminal proceedings were to be taken against him, and that he might have engaged counsel if he had desired to do so. He was asked at the trial on appeal whether he had applied for the assistance of counsel, and replied in the negative. This case is not one which would justify the action suggested in the last part of the Question, for the reason given by the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in his speech in 1904.‡

Case of John Alfred Brown.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British Consular authorities in the Congo State have reported upon the case of John Alfred Brown, a coloured British subject of Freetown, sentenced, on July 19th, 1904, by the appeal court at Boma, to three years' imprisonment; if he is aware that Brown was arrested and seized in his own house by the executive official of the district, who figures as his prosecutor in the records; that an inquiry was held on the spot by the prosecutor subsequent to Brown's arrest and after his removal, and that the charges brought against him at his first trial at Stanleyville were entirely different to those which were held to justify his arrest; that he was kept in prison for four months without trial; that he was unprovided with counsel at Stanleyville, unable to call witnesses for his defence, and consequently unable to defend himself against the charges made; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxxv., 178.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cxxxv., 1276 *et seq.*

SIR EDWARD GREY: Consul Nightingale reported this case in 1904, when he was Acting Consul at Boma. John Brown admitted having on several occasions beaten the natives under him, and I see no reason to complain of the punishment inflicted on him. I may add that the final sentence would have been heavier if the Court of Appeal had not taken the view that compulsion is necessary in order to induce the natives to work. I have not sufficient information to enable me to answer all the hon. Member's Questions in detail, but I have come to the conclusion that, with the exception of the delay in bringing Brown to trial, he was not on the whole unfairly treated. John Brown was released on March 5th, 1905. I ought to add that, in both this and the previous case, the accused were punished for having taken part in the ill-treatment of natives, which has been the ground of such general complaint in the Congo State. They are, therefore, in a quite different category from other matters which have formed the subject of representations on the part of His Majesty's Government.

Chinese Maritime Customs.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for for Foreign Affairs whether a reply has yet been received from the Chinese Government to the request of His Majesty's Government for more definite assurances in regard to the Imperial edict placing the Maritime Customs under the control of a Chinese administrator.

SIR EDWARD GREY: A telegram has been received from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking to the effect that he was yesterday given a definite promise by the Foreign Board that the Chinese Government would send him a note in a few days, formally recapitulating and reaffirming the specific engagement contained in Articles 7 and 6 of the 1896 and 1898 Loan Agreements that the administration of the Maritime Customs shall continue as at present constitued.

Vaccination Exemption Certificates.

MR. LUPTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the statement made on April 28th in the Dorchester police court by Captain Gravener, the chairman of the bench, in dismissing an application for exemption under the Vaccination Acts, that he would never grant a certificate of exemption from vaccination; and if he will take into consideration the advisability of making representations with a view to the removal of Captain Gravener from the bench.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I am at the present time in communication with the Lord Chancellor upon this subject.

South African Companies.

MR. HIGHAM (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if the requirements of The Companies Acts, 1900, especially of Section 12, have been complied with by the following limited liability companies: Rhodesia, Limited (New Company), Gwanda Consolidated Development, Austro-Rhodesia Development, South Africa Gold Dredging, Town Properties Bulawayo, Criterion Development Company, Empress Mines, and Eastern Queen's; if any of these companies are registered in Rhodesia and not in the United Kingdom; and, if so, whether they are exempt from the responsibilities of the Companies' Acts.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): Of the companies named in the question Rhodesia, Limited (New

Company), Criterion Development Company, and Eastern Queen's are not registered in the United Kingdom. I am unable to say whether they are registered in Rhodesia. Speaking generally, companies registered outside the United Kingdom are not subject to the Companies Acts; but any company, wherever registered, is liable to be ordered by the Court to be wound up, if it possessess assets within the Court's jurisdiction. The remaining companies mentioned in the Question are registered in the United Kingdom, but of them the South African Gold Dredging Company, Limited, alone was registered after January 1st, 1901, and consequently would be the only one to which Section 12 of the Companies Act, 1900, applied. It did make a return under that section, but is now winding up.

Lighting of the Coasts of the United Kingdom.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can make any statement as to the form of inquiry he proposes as to the lighting of the British and Irish coasts.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: It is proposed that the inquiry should be by Royal Commission, and should extend to the constitution and administration of the three general lighthouse authorities, but not to the incidence of light dues.

Blackburn Cottage Homes.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the proceedings of the Blackburn Board of Guardians on the 5th instant, in the course of which the question of advertising for a foster-mother of the Catholic religion was rejected, in spite of a favourable report to this effect from the Cottage Homes Committee; and whether, in view of the fact that forty-nine of the children in the cottage homes are Catholic, whilst only thirty-eight are Protestant, and that the result of adopting this recommendation would be that the Catholic and Protestant foster-mothers would be equal in number, he will cause an inquiry to be made, so that justice shall be done in this matter to the Catholics of Blackburn.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. John Burns, Battersea): I have made inquiry on this subject, and understand that the post to be filled up is that of foster-mother in a home in which all the children are Protestants. It seems right, therefore, that she should be a Protestant also. It appears, however, that there are two homes in which both Roman Catholic and Protestant children are received. In both of these the foster-mother is a Protestant. It has been suggested that the foster-mother of one of these homes should be transferred to the post now vacant, and that she should be replaced by a Roman Catholic foster-mother. I have asked the Guardians to consider the matter further from this point of view.

Feeding Hungry School Children.

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): On behalf of the hon. Member for Camberwell I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can say, respecting the working of the Local Government Order of April 27th, 1905, empowering boards of guardians in certain cases to assist in the feeding of hungry children, in how many cases the Order has been put into operation; in how many cases are children now being assisted under it; what is the record of its operations in London; and whether he has received any information bearing generally upon the efficacy or otherwise of the Order in question.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: The information I have received on this subject is not sufficiently complete to enable me to give the precise particulars asked for by my hon. friend, but I gather from it that, except in some of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Unions, the applications under the Order have not been numerous.

The Unemployed.

Mr. H. J. TENNANT (Berwickshire): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his correspondence with the Chairman of the Central (Unemployed) Body has satisfied him that the reply to his letter of May 11th will be received by the date suggested, namely June 1st; and whether any delay occurring in the receipt of this reply would cause a corresponding delay in the introduction of the proposed Bill to amend the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I find that I shall not receive the Preliminary Report of the Central (Unemployed) Body by June 1st. I understand that it will be submitted to a special meeting of the body on the 8th of that month, and I have every reason to expect that I shall receive the Report within a few days of that date. If this expectation is fulfilled I do not think that the matter referred to in the last part of the Question would be materially affected.

Handsworth School Teachers' Salaries.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that there are three schools in Handsworth, near Sheffield, and that whilst the head teacher in the Church of England school draws a salary of £160, the salary of the head teacher in St. Joseph's Catholic School has been cut down to £90, although the number of children in each of these schools is practically the same; and will he have an inquiry made into the action of the local education committee, with a view to equalising their salaries.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I find that the matter referred to came before the Board of Education a year ago and a letter was then written on the subject. Since then nothing has been heard of it, and the Board supposed the matter had been settled. If the managers renew the subject, I will see that it is carefully investigated.

Postal Congress at Rome.

MR. WEDGWOOD BENN (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether the British delegates to the Postal Congress at Rome have been successful in obtaining any reductions or improvements in the postal rates to foreign countries.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I am glad to be able to announce that, although the British delegates failed to obtain a reduction in the initial postage rate of 2½d. to foreign countries, they were successful in persuading the congress to adopt two considerable concessions to the public; the one as regards the initial weight allowed for foreign letters, and the other as regards the charges on heavier letters. In reference to the first point, when the new Postal Union Convention of Rome takes effect next year, the unit of weight will be doubled, so that the existing postage of 2½d. to foreign countries will prepay a letter weighing up to one ounce instead of up to only half an ounce as at present. This concession will embrace also letters sent under the Imperial penny post to any part of the British Empire and to Egypt, which letters at present must not exceed half an ounce in weight for a penny. Thus a letter (say) to France weighing one ounce, will in future cost for postage 2½d. instead of 5d.; and a similar letter to India and the Colonies will cost 1d. instead of 2d. As regards the second point, at present an additional 2½d. is charged for every additional half ounce after the first. In future the postage on foreign letters exceeding an ounce in weight will be reduced to 1½d. for each additional ounce, after the initial rate of 2½d. on the first ounce has been paid. Thus a letter to France, weighing two ounces will be chargeable with a postage rate of 4d. (that is 2½d. plus 1½d.) instead of 10d. as at present. Similarly a two-ounce letter to India, the Colonies and Egypt will cost only 2d. instead of 4d. A further useful postal reform, which was adopted on the motion of the British delegates, was the introduction of a reply coupon, a little postal order to bearer exchangeable in any country for a Union postage stamp. Further, the transit rates have been reduced and simplified. I think the British delegates are to be congratulated on the general success that has attended their efforts.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) asked if the proposals had been accepted by the United States.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I think the United States specifically agreed to them. But, in any case, the arrangement is binding on all the countries in the Postal Union.

MR. MORTON wished to know when the new regulations would come into operation.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Next year. It has always been the custom of the Postal Union to give a year's notice in order that preparations and postal arrangements may be made accordingly.

Ex-Cabinet Ministers' Pensions.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state the nature of the declaration that has to be made by ex-Ministers before they can receive a political pension.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The declaration must state that the applicant's total income is inadequate to maintain his station in life as required by the Act 4 and 5 Will. IV. c. 24, Section 6, re-enacted by the Civil Offices (Pensions) Act, 1869.

Local Taxation in the Western Islands of Scotland.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he has yet received the Report of Sheriff Fleming and Mr. A. B. Millar in regard to local taxation in the parishes in the western islands of Scotland; and if the Report is to be published.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The Report has been received and will be laid upon the Table presently.

Barra Parish Rates.

MR. JOHN DEWAR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he is aware that the ratepayers in the parish of Barra have refused to pay the parish rates amounting to 17*s.* 11*d.* in the pound; that the school board requisition has not been handed over, and that the clerk to the parish council has had to give his personal guarantee to the bank for certain necessary expenditure; whether he is aware that the whole parish council has resigned; and what he proposes to do to meet this deadlock and to relieve a parish where the rates are 17*s.* 11*d.* in the pound.

MR. SINCLAIR: I understand the facts are as stated. Although several attempts have been made to recover the rates aud the collector has made a door to door visit, the ratepayers refuse to pay, and prosecutions have, I understand, been ordered. The parish council, with two exceptions, have now resigned and the Local Government Board are considering the terms of an Order which they propose to issue under the powers conferred upon them by Section 18 of the Act of 1894.

Killadysert Poor Relief Case.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mrs. Hore of Killadysert, whose husband was laid up with illness, applied to the Board of Guardians of Killadysert for outdoor relief for her husband and four children, who refused it; and whether he will inquire why outdoor relief was refused to this family, and who was responsible for their not getting it.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The Local Government Board have referred this Question to the officials of the Killadysert Union, who have reported that Mrs. Hore has not at any time applied to the guardians for outdoor relief.

Irish Agricultural Grant.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, if he can state what has been the amount unexpended each year since the formation of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Ireland, out of the moneys voted by Parliament, excluding the sum of £18,000 per annum voted as a grant in aid, and which last year amounted to £190,406, to what fund does this unexpended balance go, under what section of the Act of 1899 is this money so diverted; and in view of the fact that the Department has repeatedly refused grants for objects which, if encouraged, would tend to the development of agriculture and kindred subjects, on the grounds that the Department had no money, he will take steps to ensure that money voted by Parliament will be expended on the specific objects for which it has been voted, and not diverted for the formation of reserve funds which were not contemplated by Parliament.

MR. BRYCE: The unexpended balances out of the moneys voted by Parliament in respect of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland for each year since April 1st, 1900, are as follows—

	£	s.	d.
1900–1	3,099	8	10
1901–2	2,962	15	2
1902–3	3,141	3	4
1903–4	10,051	3	7
1904–5	10,307	14	1

These amounts are determined by the Comptroller and Auditor-General when the audit of the account for the year is completed. The amount in respect of 1905–6 has not yet been determined. The unexpended balances are surrendered to the Exchequer, as shown in the Annual Appropriation Accounts laid before Parliament. The hon. Member would seem to be under some misapprehension as regards the Annual Parliamentary Vote for the Department contained in the Estimates, and the moneys placed at the disposal of the Department under Section 15 of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, for the purposes specified in Section 16 of that Act. The moneys annually voted by Parliament must be applied for the purposes indicated in the several sub-heads shown in the Estimates, under which sub-heads the Vote has to be accounted for. The only unexpended portions of these Votes that are not paid back to the Exchequer each year, are balances to credit of the grants in aid. Such balances can be carried forward and can be applied in the succeeding financial year to the purposes for which the grants in aid were voted, and for no other purpose. The details of these balances are also shown in the Appropriation Accounts.

Mr. MOONEY asked the Chief Secretary whether he was aware that in the public balance-sheet of the Department the figures for 1904–5 were not the figures which the right hon. Gentleman had given to the House, and also whether in view of the complicated way the accounts were presented he would direct that the balance-sheet should be issued yearly, so that it might be shown how the money was spent.

Mr. BRYCE: I have not the Report before me and cannot compare the figures I have just given; these figures may be assumed to be the most authentic.

Mr. MOONEY asked whether it was to be assumed that the Department issued a balance-sheet before they knew the real state of their affairs.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N): Does the right hon. Gentleman approve of the system by which a reserve fund is created?

Mr. BRYCE said he could hardly say that without looking at the Act. That Act presented a great many things.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Could not the right hon. Gentleman see that the unexpended money went into such a fund, for instance, as that required for the financing of the Labourers Bill?

Mr. BRYCE was understood to say he must look at the Act before he could answer that Question.

Mr. MOONEY asked whether these matters would be considered by the Committee at present investigating the constitution of the Department.

Mr. BRYCE said it certainly would cover part of the financial arrangements of the Department; whether it would cover all the matters referred to was another thing.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Is the financial management included in what is called the Horace Plunkett category?

[No Answer was returned.]

Irish Sub-Sheriffs.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland who has control of the duties of sub-sheriffs in Ireland; and, if it is permissible for such officials to act as land agents or auctioneers while in the public service.

Mr. BRYCE: The appointment of under or sub-sheriffs in Ireland is vested in the high sheriff of each county for the time being. The under-sheriff holds office during the will of the high sheriff, and is answerable to him for the discharge of his duties. Under-sheriffs are in no way under the control of the Irish Government. I am not aware of any statutory provision forbidding under-sheriffs to act as land agents or auctioneers.

Irish Poor Law Commission.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the cause of the delay in the presentation of the Report of the Poor Law Commission; whether the Report has been ready for publication for some time; and if he can state that it will not be held back until after the close of the Parliamentary session.

MR. BRYCE: The Chairman of the Poor Law Reforms Commission informs me that the delay in the presentation of the Report is due in part to unforeseen difficulties in the preparation of statistics, and in part to the fact that he has had to give a good deal of attention recently to another inquiry in which he is concerned by the direction of the Government. The Report of the Poor Law Reform Commission will, he states, be published long before the close of the Parliamentary session. It is at present almost ready for presentation except for some statistics which have yet to be completed, and these may cause some modification in the recommendations of the Commissioners.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): Is not the Report already in the hands of the printers?

MR. BRYCE: Yes, but corrections are to be made in the proofs.

MR. BARRIE: Who is responsible for the delay? This is a pressing matter.

MR. BRYCE: All possible despatch is being made.

Knockanes Police Hut.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland on whom the charges for the additional police hut and policemen at Knockanes, near Headfort, county Kerry, will fall; whether he considers it necessary to retain a force of nine policemen in a small and peaceable district under present conditions; and, if so, what are the grounds on which they are to be continued.

MR. BRYCE: The cost of the four policemen at Knockanes hut is defrayed out of public funds. The force at the permanent station at Headfort also consists of four policemen. The district to be policed by this force is not small, but consists of an area of 180 square miles. The force is considered absolutely necessary for the policing of this large district.

Sir Henry Burke's Property.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on Sunday the 13th instant a notice appeared outside the church of Ballinakill, county Galway, signed by the Rev. Martin Larkin, P.P., asking the tenants on a portion of the property of Sir Henry Burke, of Marble Hill, to meet him on the following Tuesday in reference to the purchase of their holdings; whether he induced some of those present to offer twenty-one years purchase, and had the estate bailiff, named Campbell, present to take down the names of those induced to consent to that offer; and whether, seeing that a portion of the tenants are in arrear, he will see that if they are unduly pressed for recovery of same, and thereby coerced to agree to that price, the estate shall be inspected before any public money is advanced.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no proceedings for the sale of the particular portion of the estate of Sir Henry Burke which is referred to in the Question have yet come before them, and they have no information as to the matters of fact alleged in the Question. If proceedings for sale should come before the Commissioners, they will take any steps which they may consider necessary and proper in the circumstances, having regard to the powers vested in them.

Promotion in the Dublin Police.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): On behalf of the hon. Member for St. Patrick's Division of Dublin I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland can he state what was the system of promotion in the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force while Mr. Jones was Chief Commissioner; has it since been departed from, and, if so, for what reason; whether members of the force qualified for promotion have been passed over, and others having less claims to advancement have been promoted in their places; and whether he will take steps to insure that, in future, promotions in the force shall be based on more equitable principles.

MR. BRYCE: The Chief Commissioner informs me that in the time of his predecessor three-fourths of the promotions were made according to seniority from the list of qualified men, and one-fourth of the promotions were made by competitive examination among qualified men, independent of seniority. The latter method of promotion was somewhat of an innovation, and was deemed to have been not entirely satisfactory in practice, seeing that it opened the way for the promotion, in respect of a competitive examination largely in literary subjects, of men whose capacity for police work was not shown to be superior to that of their comrades. The system in question has been departed from by the present Chief Commissioner, who has adopted the general rule of promoting the senior man who is found eligible, reserving a power to give promotion for special merits outside seniority on the result of a competitive examination. The Chief Commissioner informs me that no members of the force who are qualified for promotion have been passed over, and none having less claims to advancement have been promoted in their places. The Chief Commissioner claims that the present system is entirely equitable.

Irish Equivalent Education Grant.

THE MARQUESS OF HAMILTON (Londonderry): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when he will be able to make a statement as to the equivalent grant of money to be devoted to Irish purposes, in relation to the £1,000,000 to be paid to England and Wales under Clause 12 to the Education Bill.

MR. BRYCE: I stated on Thursday last that the time has not yet arrived for making a statement on this subject. My right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer recently informed the hon. Member for North Londonderry that as the financial arrangements under the Education Bill will not come into force during the present financial year it would be premature to come to a decision in the matter.

Irish Prison Service.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the practice of appointing ex-Royal Irish Constabulary pensioners to the Irish Prison Service; and whether he will consider the advisability of not employing, as a prison warder, a constable who may have been in conflict with political offenders and with the criminal classes.

MR. BRYCE: Pensioners from the Royal Irish Constabulary are eligible for appointment as prison warders, but as a matter of fact very few have been appointed, the reason being that the majority of pensioners are physically unfit for the work. The Chairman of the Prisons Board informs me that out of a total of 380 warders, at no time have there been more than ten or twelve who have served in the Constabulary. Pensioners, however, who have been appointed have proved satisfactory officers, and so far as experience goes it would not appear that the consideration mentioned in the Question has shown any ground why the practice of occasionally appointing eligible pensioners should not be continued.

King's County Uneconomic Holdings.

MR. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a memorial has been received by the Estates Commissioners from a number of tenants occupying uneconomic holdings in Ard, near Killeigh, in the King's County, praying the Commissioners to purchase (for the purpose of the redistribution and enlargement of their holdings) 500 acres of untenanted land on the estate of Mrs. Guise, at Aughanvilla, Geashill; and whether he can say what steps the Commissioners propose to take in the matter.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they received the memorial in question, and made inquiries from the owner with the object of considering the question of purchase. The Commissioners were informed, in reply, that the owner had already sold the lands in question to a private purchaser. This sale did not take place through the Commissioners.

MR. HAVILAND BURKE asked if the right hon. Gentleman was prepared to advise the Estates Commissioners to make a special list of applications for the sale of untenanted land where no legal question arose, and where there were no disputed rights, so as to grant the necessary relief under the Land Purchase Acts.

MR. BRYCE said he believed the Commissioners were doing that.

West of Ireland Grazing Farms.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that since the passing of the Land Act of 1903, many large grazing farms in the West of Ireland have been purchased by non-residential graziers; and, if so, what steps the Government propose to take in order to put an end to this practice, which means the sale to individuals of lands which should be utilised for the relief of congestion in Connaught.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that in any case in which a grazier holds on the eleven months system, they make no advance to enable him to purchase the holding, as he is not a tenant within the meaning of the Act. In any case in which a grazier is a tenant within the meaning of the Act, the Commissioners will exercise the discretion given to them by the Act, as to whether such a tenancy should be included in the estate for the purposes of purchase, and, if included, whether the advance prescribed by the Land Purchase Amendment Act of 1888, namely £3,000, should be exceeded. In cases in which new tenancies are created by letting lands to graziers or others in a Congested Districts county, the Estates Commissioners, under Section 53 of the Land Purchase Act of 1903, can only advance a maximum of £500 in each case. If a landlord creates new tenancies on untenanted land, whether in congested or non-congested districts, by putting the untenanted land up for auction in parcels and then selling to the buyers under the Land Purchase Acts, thus depriving the Commissioners of the opportunity of disposing of such parcels to the classes of persons contemplated by the Act, the Commissioners refuse to allow such parcels to be included in an estate for the purposes of the Act.

Darcy Irvine Estate, Evicted Tenant.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any application has been received from James Somerville, an evicted tenant on the Darcy Irvine estate, county Fermanagh, for re-instatement in his former holding; and whether, in case, as appears to be the fact, his former holding is now relet to another person, the Commissioners will allot him another holding on the untenanted lands of this or some other estate in the county.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received an application for re-instatement from James Somerville, whose former holding is stated to be in the occupation of a judicial tenant. In the event of the Estates Commissioners acquiring untenanted land in the district, his application and the applications of all local evicted tenants will be considered and dealt with.

Steam Trawling off County Antrim.

MR. BARRIE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, owing to the representations from fishermen of Portrush, Portstewart, and Magilligan districts as to the losses sustained by them owing to the operations of steam trawlers, an inquiry was held by one of the Fishery Board's officials in Portrush in September last, and that as a result of this inquiry the Fishery Board recommended to the Lord-Lieutenant that steam trawling be prohibited within a line drawn between Donagree, county Donegal, and Bengore Head, county Antrim; and will he explain why this recommendation has not so far been given effect to, as at present steam trawlers are still inflicting loss upon the local fishermen.

MR. BRYCE: A by-law embodying the prohibition in question was approved by the Lord-Lieutenant in Council on the 24th instant, and was published in the *Dublin Gazette* of the following day.

Irish Equivalent Grant.

MR. T. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state what amounts were paid out of the Irish Equivalent Grant during the year 1905, and to what purposes they were applied: also what amount of the same grant was applied during the same period towards primary education in Ireland.

MR. BRYCE: The particulars for the year ending March 31st, 1906, will be found in the Report of proceedings under the Ireland Development Grant which has been laid on the Table of the House (Cd. 2937, of the present year).

Gledstane Estate, Donegal.

MR. McVEIGH (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Estates Commissioners has been called to the matter of Moses Glenn, of Ruskey, Convoy, East Donegal, who was evicted from his farm on the Gledstane estate, for which he paid an annual rent of £30; whether he is aware that the farm has since been let to a planter for £15 per annum; and whether, now that the estate is in the hands of the Commissioners, he will direct them to inquire into Glenn's case, with a view to reinstating him in his farm or to see that the planter will not be allowed to purchase under the Land Act 1903, unless Glenn is compensated for the loss of his holding.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received an application for reinstatement from Moses Glenn, whose former holding is stated to be in the occupation of a judicial tenant at a rent of £16 per annum. The Commissioners will have enquiry made into the case, but until their inspector's report has been received, they have no knowledge of the facts of the case, and are unable to say what action they may take.

Dublin Corporation and Re-valuation.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the revaluation of Dublin was directed by an Act promoted by the Corporation of Dublin itself; if that Corporation has since endeavoured to retard the revaluation, or made any representations to him with that view, either directly or through any of the Dublin Members of Parliament; and whether attempts to delay the revaluation have taken place after it was found that the Commissioner of Valuation in revaluing Belfast had put valuations on public-house licences hitherto not taken into account in the valuation of property in Ireland.

MR. BRYCE: The reply to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative, and to the second in the negative. As to the third, the Commissioner of Valuation informs me that he is not aware of any attempt to delay the work of re-valuation beyond the fact that, as reported to the public Press, a Motion to ask the Commissioner to proceed at once with the re-valuation was on two occasions defeated at meetings of the corporation. The matter does not rest with the Irish Government, the Commissioner of Valuation being an officer of the Treasury.

Dublin Police and Licensed Traders.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin, South): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to the instructions issued to some inspectors of the Dublin Metropolitan Police to make cases against licensed traders, whether he has seen those instructions, and whether he has sanctioned them, if he does not, whether he has caused or will cause his opinion to be conveyed to the Dublin police authorities; and whether he will givn to the House the terms of the instructions in question.

MR. BRYCE: I have neither sanctioned nor seen the document referred to. What the Question described as instructions was contained in a confidential memorandum sent more than a year ago by a superintendent in the Dublin Metropolitan Police to three inspectors under him. The Chief Commissioner informs me that he is satisfied that the issue of this memorandum was an honest attempt on the part of the superintendent to rouse his men to a faithful discharge of their duties under the licensing laws, and in no way intended to suggest to them to take any unfair action. It would be contrary to practice to lay on the Table a confidential memorandum issued by a police superintendent.

Mr. CLANCY expressed a hope that the right hon. Gentleman would get a copy of the memorandum and read it himself; he would then be able to answer the Question.

Guinness's Brewery, Dublin.

Mr. FETHERSTONHAUGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can inform the House what is the valuation upon which the brewery of Arthur Guinness, Son, and Company, Dublin, is assessed, and how that valuation compares with the brewery of Bass, Ratcliff, and Gretton at Burton; whether he is aware that public-houses in Dublin are valued under the present valuation without reference to the value of their licences; and if he will represent to the Commissioner of Valuation the need for proceeding with the revaluation of Dublin.

Mr. McKENNA: I regret that I have been unable to obtain the information necessary to answer this Question.

Merchants' Quay (Kilrush) Fatality.

Mr. HALPIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that P. Tyrrel, of Arklow, aged twenty-two years, was drowned at Merchants' Quay, Kilrush, on March 16th, 1890, and that the coroner's jury added a rider to its finding expressing their deepest censure on whoever is responsible for the lighting and better protection of Merchants' Quay, Kilrush, and drawing attention to the number of deaths that have occurred in the past few years from the negligence referred to; and whether he proposes to take any steps to prevent the quay being kept in such a neglected condition, without light or protection for those who have to do business on it at night.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I beg to answer this Question on behalf of my right hon. friend. I have seen a copy of the finding of the coroner's jury and of the rider in the case referred to, and I have, as I promised in my reply to the hon. Member on March 27th,† obtained a further report on the place. As the result of representations made by His Majesty's Inspector the dangerous parts of the quay have been fenced, and steps are being taken to provide life-buoys, to erect lamps to light the quay and the road leading to it, and to put a chain along the dock-wall. I am informed, however, that only two drowning fatalities have occurred at this place since 1846.

South of Ireland Railway Grant.

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, having regard to the apparent inability of hon. Members representing the localities concerned to agree on the proper allocation of the sum of £93,000 which the Treasury had promised to grant towards railway development in the South of Ireland, he will consider the advisability of diverting this money to help in the drainage of Lough Neagh and the river Bann, and thus relieve the people in that district from the suffering and distress under which they are at present labouring.

Mr. McKENNA: I fear that I can hold out no prospect of meeting the hon. Member's wishes in this respect.

Revaluation of Dublin.

Mr. FETHERSTONHAUGH: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury when the necessary financial arrangements will be made to enable the revaluation of the city of Dublin to be commenced; whether he is aware that for now almost six years this revaluation is overdue, and rates are being levied on an obsolete basis; whether he is aware that under the existing valuation no account is taken of business goodwill or the existence of publicans' licences; and whether action will be taken to enable this system of taxation to be set right by revaluation.

Mr. McKENNA: I am not able to state when it will be possible to commence revaluation. It is true that application for it was made some six years ago, but although it has not yet been carried out the valuation lists are kept up to date by annual revision. The Answer to the third part of the Question is in the affirmative.

Belfast Revaluation.

Mr. FETHERSTONHAUGH: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury when the revaluation of Belfast was commenced and when concluded; whether the Commissioner of Valuation in Ireland was supplied with a suitable staff to enable him to make the revaluation; whether the revaluation of Dublin was already overdue before the completion of the Belfast revaluation; will he say why the Commissioner did not at once begin the revaluation of Dublin when he finished that of Belfast; and would the staff which enabled him to revalue Belfast have been adequate for revaluation of Dublin.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 1083–4.

MR. McKENNA: The revaluation of Belfast was commenced in December, 1899, and the final lists were issued on June 1st, 1905, but the revision intended to bring these up to date was not issued till March last, and the 975 appeals which arose out of it have not yet been settled. The Answer to the second part of the Question is in the affirmative, but I am informed that very few of the staff were available for the revaluation of Dublin. I may add that there is no time limit under which the valuation is to be made.

Colonial Conference.

MR. REES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the representation of India at the Conference in 1907 will extend to the different provinces of the Empire, in view of their widely differing character as regards population, wealth, trade, revenue, and other circumstances.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): As I have already stated, invitations to the Conference of 1907 have been issued only to the Premiers of the various self-governing Colonies. The practice adopted at the previous Conferences provides for the presence of representatives of different Departments of the Government, and under this arrangement the representation of India will be secured. It is not intended that the Indian Provinces should be separately represented before the Conference, any more than the Australian and Canadian Provinces.

Conventual Laundries.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton): I beg to ask the Prime Minister, in consideration of the increase in the number of religious houses in this country, recently augmented by the immigration of conventual communities from France, and of the fact that factories, workshops, and laundries are conducted in connection with these establishments, whether he will order a Statistical Return of all Monastic and Conventual Residences in Great Britain and Ireland, and arrange for the periodical and efficient inspection of all such institutions, enabling all the members of these communities to share the rights and liberties of British citizens under the protection of the Law, and regulating all business undertakings, whether of paid or unpaid labour, in accordance with the rules enforced in other centres of industry.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not think that any such Return is wanted at present, nor do I think that any system of general conventual inspection is required or desirable. I understand that my right hon. friend the Home Secretary contemplates legislation next session, if possible, dealing with convent laundries; and I hope that this will make good any existing deficiencies in the way of public supervision.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I hope the right hon. Gentleman will remember this Question is put by a follower of a Government which negatived any such legislation.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): Will the Bill be similar to one intended to be introduced by the late Government?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he had no knowledge what the provisions of the Bill would be; nor was it certain that a Bill would be introduced.

MR. SLOAN: What does the right hon. Gentleman mean by will be introduced next session "if possible"?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: If it is found to be within the competence and necessities of the Government to introduce it.

Election Petition Judges.

MR. T. R. BETHELL (Essex, Maldon): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he has considered or will consider the propriety of introducing legislation to enable Election Judges to be nominated each year by the Speaker of the House of Commons, instead of as at present left to a rota; and whether he will consider the propriety of amending the law so as to insure more clearly than the laws as at present laid down appear to do the purity of elections.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: When the Election Petitions of this year have been finished His Majesty's Government will be prepared to consider whether an amendment of the law is needed. The nomination of the Election Judges by the Speaker would be to impose on him a somewhat anomalous duty, and this course does not seem practicable.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. PAUL (Northampton) asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he could not put down the salary of the Secretary of State for War as the first order on Thursday in Whitsun week, or on some not much later date. He asked this because he desired to call attention to a subject of great importance involving the whole administration of military law. Of course he could not expect any consideration, as he did not belong to the Party opposite, and the majority must suffer, but as this question affected the welfare of every soldier in the Army——

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. Member is only entitled to ask a Question.

MR. PAUL: Then I ask if the opportunity I desire will be given on the first Thursday after Whitsuntide, or soon after.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he would endeavour to meet the desire of his hon. friend to raise the question of his right hon. friend's salary. There was, however, a little difficulty in meeting the wishes of his hon. friend, which were certainly not extravagant; but he hoped that if his hon. friend would communicate with him a place in the menu of the day which would suit his purpose would be found.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): May I ask if I rightly understand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not intend to proceed with the proposed drawback on tobacco?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): I do intend to proceed with it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London), referring to to-morrow's business, said he understood that the Prime Minister on a previous occasion had indicated that he proposed to take some Bills as well as the Motion for adjournment over the holidays. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman intended to take the Motion for adjournment first, as it was one of the few occasions on which the House could discuss all subjects with the greatest freedom.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the Bills he proposed to take were not of a contentious character, and he thought it would be better to take them first. If any of them appeared to give a *bona fide* opportunity for the expenditure of time it would not be proceeded with. The Bills he proposed to take were:—The Metropolitan Police Commission Bill, the Post Office Sites Bill, the Statute Law Revision (Scotland) Bill, the Fatal Accidents (Scotland) Bill, the Isle of Man Bill, the Dean Forest Bill, and the Indian Railways Acts Amendment Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR most earnestly protested against the one opportunity on which any question dealing with matters of administration could be raised being interfered with. The House ought not rashly to fritter away any of its privileges. When once they started on the Second Reading of a Bill there was no knowing how long the debate would last.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN reminded the right hon. Gentleman that he had himself on one occasion of the kind introduced the Aliens Bill first.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Under the ten minutes rule.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that meant twenty minutes, and he did not think that these two or three Bills would occupy more than ten minutes; but he did not wish to infringe on the rights of the House, and if any of the Bills he had mentioned appeared likely to lead to substantial discussion they would not be proceeded with.

REVENUE BILL.

"To amend the Law relative to Customs and Inland Revenue, and for other purposes connected with Finance," presented by Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer; supported by Mr. M'Kenna; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 12th, and to be printed. [Bill 240.]

FINANCE BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) moved to reduce the duty on tea to 4d. He said it was an outrageous thing that tea should be taxed to the extent it was. The duty was economically undefensible. In 1905 the consumption of tea in these islands was roughly 260,000,000 lbs.—or 6 lbs. per head of population, and he did not think he in any way exaggerated the facts when he described tea as an article of universal necessity. In 1901 the consumption was as high as 6·16 lbs. per head of population, but owing to the heavy tax it had since fallen. The wholesale price of the tea which the poor drank ranged from 2½d. per lb. upwards, so that on this tea there was actually an *ad valorem* duty of 350 per cent. No other article of food—no other commodity in use in this country—was taxed to that extent. We raised a revenue of some £7,000,000 by thus oppressing our poorer brethren, and it was quite time another protest was made against this tax. All other English-speaking countries admitted tea duty free, while as to the continent of Europe, Germany only charged 1½d., Sweden 3d. and Denmark 4d. We had the highest tea duty in the world, and it was time that tea drinkers received more consideration at the hands of the Government. He might be reminded that the duty was increased by the Conservative party. No doubt it was, but the justification for that was to be found in the extraordinarily narrow limits of taxation which had hitherto been looked upon as open. But that did not alter the fact that the duty was an indefensible one. We got seven-eighths of our tea from India and Ceylon. A very large proportion of our tea was grown by British subjects, and therefore it mattered not, for the sake of his argument, who paid the tax, whether the producer or the consumer, as it fell on British subjects. Therefore, to his mind, it was indefensible. Another argument that would be used was that a penny had been given, and that half a loaf was better than no bread. Yes, when they got that half loaf themselves, but not when somebody else ate it. Although this penny reduction might benefit a certain number, particularly those who bought their tea in comparatively large quantities, it would not benefit a great many of those who bought their tea in extremely small quantities. A reduction of a penny in the lb. could not possibly benefit those who bought their tea in two-ounce packets, for which they now paid 1¼d., and they would continue to pay that amount. If, however, there had been 2d. reduction a farthing would have been knocked off, and that would make a considerable difference to the poor women who did their marketing in very small quantities. The Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Second Reading had argued that although they would not gain in quantity they would gain in quality. He was sorry the right hon. Gentleman had so poor an opinion of the intelligence of this House as to use an argument of that kind. There were vast quantities of tea in bond. They could not change the quality of the poorer nature of tea. Poor tea must be grown and would be grown, and it was absolutely certain that if it were grown it would be put on the market, and the people who bought it would get no advantage in quality, quantity, or price from this reduction of the tax. Then it would be said that the right hon. Gentleman could not afford to reduce the tax by 2d. He contended that they ought to be able to afford it by widening and enlarging the basis of taxation and by trying to make the foreigner pay a part of our taxation, as he made us pay a part of his. The other alternative he would suggest was that the 2d. should be taken off tea and the coal duty left as it was. Whatever might be the merits of the coal duty, whatever the incidence of its burden, it was quite certain that the coal duty had been taken off in favour of a comparatively small class, while the tea duty affected everyone in these islands. He thought it was the hon. Member for North Paddington who calculated that 38,000,000 of the inhabitants of these islands might be classed as poor, and these 38,000,000 were more deserving of consideration—they had more claim to a 2d. reduction — than the class of coalowners and coalminers had for the abolition of the duty on coal. Then he dared say another argument would be used that tea was bad for one. He was not going to argue whether it was bad or good. He knew quite well that if it was allowed to stew it must be bad, but that was not the point. Whether it was bad or good it would be drunk regularly by almost every inhabitant of these islands, and one had to take that into consideration, and not to argue whether they had better drink something else. On all these grounds he thought tea drinkers had a good claim for the reduction by 2d. of the existing duty, and he hoped a great section of the Committee would support this Amendment. He intended to push it to a division, and he would like, though he did it with some reluctance, to remind a great many hon. Members that they had heard a great deal during this session of mandates and so on. He would like to remind them of what they had said—of the pledges they had given in regard to tea, of the tea posters which were all over many of the constituencies, and of the opinions that they had expressed as to the value of those posters to them. He had here an expression of opinion that the posters of the Anti-Tea Duty League rendered very great service to the President of the Local Government Board. That was only one of many. Now they had an opportunity of showing their gratitude for the assistance given them at the elections by those societies which advocated the prompt abolition of the 2d. war tax on tea. In conclusion he would quote a sentence used two years ago by the President of the Board of Trade. Had the right hon. Gentleman been present he would have invited him to give effect to his words. He said—

> "The House of Commons has got to take the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the throat in a Parliamentary sense and tell him that they cannot continue these burdens year by year."

He was exceedingly sorry the right hon. Gentleman was not present to put the pressure on now which he advocated so strongly two years ago, but he hoped he would do so when the time came for a division.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out the word 'five,' and insert the word 'four.'"—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

"Question put, "That the word 'five' stand part of the clause."

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) said the only really relevant part of the speech of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down was that which came at the end. This was not the occasion for discussing the whole question of the tea duty. The question before the Committee was whether it should be 5d. or 4d. Nor was this the time for making a speech upon the fiscal question. It was the case that during the last general election many Members urged that the tax on tea was much too high and should be reduced. Many Members, including himself, expressed their intention of using their utmost efforts to get the duty reduced. What had happened? The Chancellor of the Exchequer had given half of his surplus to the reduction of the tea duty. Was it not the part of the practical man to accept that half for the present, instead of refusing the penny if they could not have the twopence? It was very easy to propose an impracticable Motion like this from the other side, and to invite Members on the Government side to vote for it. But few would walk into such a very open trap. They had to draw the line somewhere. Otherwise, why should they not knock off a shilling from the income-tax, reduce the Army by 10,000 or 20,000 men, and the Navy by a dozen battleships, and claim to be the greatest financial reformers of modern times? The hon. Gentleman knew that his proposal was not practical, but he also knew that it would give him and his friends some opportunity of posing as greater friends of the poor than those who had in reality done more towards the reduction of the tea duty than the hon. Member and his friends. The hon. Gentleman had said that tea drinkers would not profit by the reduction at all. He would join issue with the hon. Member on that ground. The penny had already led to a reduction in many instances. He did not see why such an Amendment as this should be moved at all, because it meant absolutely nothing, and no benefit could accrue from it. There was nothing to recommend it to the Committee, and he hoped it would be rejected. The hon. mover was like a Parliamentary cuckoo, who laid an egg in the Liberal nest, and invited every one to come and see how much larger it was than the eggs of the lawful proprietor.

MR. FLETCHER (Hampstead) said that when an alteration was suggested some other alternative should be put forward. In this case he thought the money could be best obtained by leaving the coal duty as it was. They all hoped for great things from having a strong man as Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he was very much surprised at his giving way to the pressure put upon him by wealthy coal owners and tea planters in the way he had done, because there were such strong arguments against adopting that course. He might have said that the consumer did not pay the duty, because the exports of coal since the tax had increased, and there was no doubt that the foreigner paid the tax.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is not in order in discussing the coal tax on this Amendment.

MR. FLETCHER said there was the Anti-Tea Tax Association, which was supported by the hon. Member for Montgomery Boroughs, who was probably a subscriber. The strong probability was that the members of that association would profit by this reduction on the tea duty, because it would go into the pockets of the wholesale tea dealers and the planters. The Chancellor of the Exchequer might have told the tea trade that they had their turn last year; they might very well have waited another year, and had 2d. taken off later on. He thought that course would have been much more agreeable to the trade.

*MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said that as one who in his election address favoured the principle, as far as possible, of a free breakfast table, he could consistently support this Amendment. When hon. Members sitting on the Government Benches were in opposition they spent a great many hours abusing the Government of the day because they did not reduce what they called this iniquitous tea tax, but now they were not at all enthusiastic to carry out the pledges they gave before and during the election. This tax fell heavily upon the poorer classes, who had in consequence either to reduce their consumption of tea or buy tea of an inferior quality. But why should they tax tea, which was a product of our own colonies? Why should they not tax something which was produced outside this Empire? All taxes on the necessaries of life should be avoided as much as possible. There were occasions when for specific purposes it was necessary to put a tax on the necessaries of life, but the taxation of necessaries was wrong in principle. The tea tax produced about £5,500,000 every year. Having suggested that the tea duty should be abolished altogether, it was only right to suggest how the money raised by it should be replaced. He would suggest that a tax should be placed upon imported goods. He understood that chiefly the blenders would benefit by this reduction.

MR. FLAVIN said there was as keen competition between the blenders as growers, and he must sell to the retailer at a penny per pound less.

*MR. ASHLEY said his information did not agree with that view. He understood that the blenders would benefit to the extent of one halfpenny, the grocer to the extent of one farthing, and the consumer to the extent of a farthing, but he contended the people who could afford to buy only small packets would get no benefit at all. He thought it would have been better to have left the duty as it was until the Chancellor of the Exchequer was able, as he said he hoped to be, to take off another penny next year.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): I never said so.

*MR. ASHLEY said he thought it would have been better to have waited till the autumn and then to have taken off twopence in order to obviate the disorganisation to trade by two changes in one year. In view of the pledges given by the Ministerialists at the election he looked to them to support the reduction in the division lobby.

MR. ASQUITH said it was remarkable to see on the other side of the Committee a wonderful unanimity in favour of a reduction of the tea duty to which they had not been accustomed in past years. To the general considerations advanced, the objections to the duty in itself, and the desirability of reducing it as much and as soon as possible he entirely assented. Tea was a necessary of life, and a tax upon it was injurious to producer and consumer. Of the supply, 95 per cent. was produced by our fellow-subjects, and there were good reasons why a Chancellor of the Exchequer should desire to avoid the tax. His predecessor in office —whom he was glad to see back in his place in auspicious circumstances upon which he was sure the right hon. Gentleman would receive universal congratulation—last year used unanswerable arguments on the same lines as those which had been addressed to the Committee. The only question of dispute was as to the reduction of the duty by a penny. Personally he would have been glad to reduce the duty by 2d., but the Committee must look at the financial arrangements of the year as a whole; and he had to look at the amount of money at his disposal. His choice, therefore, lay between a reduction of 1d. or of 2d. He found that, after making adequate provision for a further reduction of the Debt, and if he had to get rid of the coal duty, he had not enough money left, and the hon. Member could not now suggest a supply to enable him to make a reduction of the tea duty by more than 1d. Hon. Members must say, therefore, that he had either given too much to the Debt or that he ought not to have dealt with the coal tax. If hon. Members said that, they were in a logical position. The question which he asked his advisers at the Treasury, and which he anxiously considered before making this proposal, was whether a reduction of a penny, which was without precedent, would really reach the consumer. No Chancellor of the Exchequer would wish to put money into the pockets of the trade; what he desired was to secure that the benefit of the remission should go to the person by whom the article was consumed. He made inquiries whether or not the effect of a remission of a penny would reach the consumer, and he was assured by all the information he could gather that in an article like tea, where a duty of sixpence represented something like 100 per cent. on the actual value of the imported raw material, a reduction of a penny, or 15 per cent., where there were no intermediate processes of manipulation, in the course of which the reduction might be either delayed, intercepted, or neutralised, must speedily reach the consumer. What had happened? The hon. Member had quoted from information that had been given to him that the reduction had gone into the pockets of the blenders. He would like to read a few words from *The Times Commercial Supplement*, which all must agree was a most admirable and very impartial summary of what went on in the commercial world. On 21st May, under the heading of "Tea," *The Times Commercial Supplement* said—

> "When Mr. Asquith announced the reduction of 1d. in the tea duty (from 6d. per lb. to 5d.) it was asserted in trade circles that this would make no difference in the price charged to the consumer, as the reduction was too small to allow of its being split up into fractional parts. It is, however, already apparent that competition among retailers may have the effect of reducing the prices — as regards the cheapest qualities especially—even to a greater extent than 1d. a lb., notwithstanding a decision of a number of large distributors to keep up quotations and 'improve the quality,' a euphemism for retaining most of the reduction in duty for themselves. It happens that the market value of the cheapest tea is 1d. per lb. less than it was a year ago, and there is an immense quantity of it at present in the bonded warehouses worth from 3½d. to 4d. per lb. With the 5d. duty this tea can be retailed at 10d. per lb., as compared with the hitherto lowest quotation of 1s. per lb. The reduction of 2d. is made up by the 1d. duty and the fall in market value of 1d. Until this large stock is so retailed at a price to stimulate consumption by the poorest classes it will remain in bond. Our market reports show how difficult it is to dispose of this cheap tea, except at such a reduction in price. Retail vendors have in many places already shown their appreciation of the possibility of attracting trade by a cut in prices."

According to this authority, which was not prejudiced in favour of the

Government, the effect of the reduction had already been felt, and the consumer was receiving it in a reduced price of 2d., or he was paying 10d. now for what he formerly paid 1s. The advice that he had acted upon, therefore, was well-founded, for this reduction of the tea duty was going into the pockets of the consumers. To his hon. friends who might have given pledges to reduce the tea duty, he said that the Government were doing their best to carry this reduction out. They must look in a matter of this kind, however, not to see what was ideally desirable, but what was practically attainable; and, having regard to the whole of the financial arrangements, he asked the Committee without hesitation to believe that the reduction proposed was a reduction which would benefit the consumer.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the kindly references he had made during his absence from the House at the time of the Budget statement, and now the right hon. Gentleman had added to his obligations by the congratulations so kindly offered that afternoon. He regretted that he was not able to be present at the most interesting occasion of the Budget statement, and he had lost by his absence the opportunity of making a complete survey of the right hon. Gentleman's finance proposals. But this clause was, in a certain sense, the key to the right hon. Gentleman's scheme of finance for the year, and he thought that it illustrated the basis on which he had proceeded and the defects of the arrangements he had proposed. The debate had a strange familiarity to those who had been in the habit of sitting through Budget discussions in recent years. On this occasion, however, he missed some familiar voices that had never been absent from earlier debates on the tea duty, and without them a tea duty debate seemed scarcely to be complete. He wished that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who had such experts on the tea duty among his colleagues, had called them into his counsel, and had caused them to appear on the front bench opposite to give their candid opinion of the present proposal, as they undoubtedly would have done had the proposal come from the late Chancellor of the Exchequer. Their appearance in the discussion now would have added to the merriment of the Committee. Were the premisses on which the right hon. Gentleman had based his argument for the penny reduction correct? He was inclined to doubt it. The right hon. Gentleman had said that in the circumstances of to-day he had only a limited amount of money to distribute, and, unless the Committee were prepared to say that he ought not to have contributed a sum to the Debt or repealed the coal duty, hon. Members could not in logic condemn him for not having reduced the tea duty by more than a penny. But he doubted very much whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not, if he had chosen to make use of them, greater resources at his command than he had disclosed to the Committee. He had studied the right hon. Gentleman's speeches, and he was well aware from his own experience at the Treasury how rash it was for anyone outside that Department, and without access to the sources of information possessed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to prophesy as to what the future had in store for the country, —or to hesitate as to the accuracy of the right hon. Gentleman's prophesies. Yet with that preface and excuse he could not help saying that the right hon. Gentleman had apparently taken an unduly moderate view of what he might reasonably and fairly expect to obtain from taxation during the present year. There had been a moderate, but marked, improvement in the closing months of the last calendar year. That improvement had continued, and was emphasised, in the first months of the present calendar year; and it was to that improvement the right hon. Gentleman owed the surplus with which the last financial year ended. With these signs of revival before him the right hon. Gentleman was entitled to anticipate a larger income from existing taxes than that upon which he counted from the financial clearances. He thought that when the financial year closed it would be found that if the right hon. Gentleman had been a little bolder he would not have found his hopes falsified, but would have had money enough to do something more than he had done in other directions. But was the reduction of the Debt and the repeal of the coal tax the best use to make of the money available? He was not one who would criticise the right hon. Gentleman for having increased the provision for the reduction of debt. On the contrary, his criticism would be that the provision made was "the least that could be described as plausible," and something less than a hopeful expectation. A Finance Minister who during his electoral campaign talked with such gravity of the state of the Debt and the national finances, and then, having a realised surplus of £3,000,000 and a prospective surplus of £3,000,000 more, could provide nothing more out of taxation than a beggarly half-million was not giving even plausible fulfilment of the hopes and expectations which he had held out.

MR. ASQUITH: We are reducing the Debt by a larger figure than in any previous year.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that that had nothing to do with the amount of provision made out of taxation for debt reduction. The right hon. Gentleman had not treated him ungenerously, and he hoped he would not be accused of egotism if he said that, if the right hon. Gentleman was reducing the Debt by a large amount, it was because his predecessor in times of greater difficulty increased the provision not by a half but by a whole million; because the right hon. Gentleman was left with a surplus of £3,000,000, and because he got a windfall in the repayment by China of a debt which had been allocated by every pledge of two successive Chancellors of the Exchequer to the extinction of debt.

MR. ASQUITH: The right hon. Gentleman has forgotten that he got a windfall of £1,250,000 from South Africa.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he did not complain of that reference to South Africa. After elaborate negotiations £1,250,000 was obtained from South Africa, and it was applied to the reduction of debt. In fact it was practically a repayment. But he did not see how that affected the provision which he or the right hon. Gentleman had made out of taxation for the reduction of debt. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had talked on this subject as if we were on the verge of financial disaster. He had painted the picture in colours which were far darker than could be justified, and yet he had made this paltry contribution to an end which he set so high. He ought to have given, not half a million, but one million, or nearer two millions. If the right hon. Gentleman had asked the country to bear its present burdens for a year longer and had devoted the whole of the money to the reduction of debt, he would have taken a bold and strong course, and he would have supported the right hon. Gentleman in it.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he was anxious to allow every latitude to the right hon. Gentleman under the present circumstances, but he thought he was now going beyond what was allowable on the Amendment.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he claimed no latitude in discussing this matter, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer had challenged him on a point of logic. He did not blame the right hon. Gentleman for having dealt with the Debt; but the coal tax stood on an exceptional footing, being unlike any other tax in our financial system. It needed close watching, and in his opinion it could not permanently remain a part of our financial system. But that was not to say that when there was a limited sum of money available the coal tax, which affected the smallest number of British subjects, should have first consideration, and that a tax which affected every British subject should be placed second to it. As to the tea duty, in spite of what the right hon. Gentleman had said, he found a special reason for saying that if the tea duty were to be touched at all it ought to have been reduced by 2d. The hon. Member for Montgomery seemed to think that the reduction of the tea duty had always been the work of Liberal Governments. But it was Lord Goschen who brought the tax down to 4d., a point to which no Liberal Government had ever brought it down. Everyone wished to see the tea duty reduced, but wished above all that the advantage should go to the consumer. It was particularly easy to achieve that result in the case of tea, while in the case of most other taxable articles it was difficult to know how much of the reduction would reach the consumer and how long it would be in reaching him. Subject to one condition, the relief to the consumer of tea was immediate and complete; and that condition was that the reduction should be such as was capable of being expressed in terms of the price of those small packets in which tea was sold to the very poor. The right hon. Gentleman did not pretend that the poor consumer of tea in two ozs. packets would get any advantage in price, but that he would get an improvement in quality. If the poor consumer would take his tea to the distinguished Government analyst at Somerset House, he might find a chemical appreciation in the quality of his tea, but that would be the limit of his benefit. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that there was an enormous quantity of very cheap tea of the poorest quality in stock—so poor in quality that it could not be sold at all, except at some reduction of the present lowest prices. As long as that stock of poor tea remained unexhausted, said the right hon. Gentleman, there was hope for the consumer. He had only to buy tea which certain of the right hon. Gentleman's colleagues who had expert knowledge of the subject had often described as poison, and he would get some advantage out of the reduction of duty which the right hon. Gentleman had made. He was of opinion that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had frittered away the money at his disposal. He might have done a big thing with the Debt; he might have done something for the income-tax payer, who, patient and long-suffering as he was, had become a little tired of his burden; or he might have done something substantial for the great mass of the consumers by giving a sensible reduction in the tea duty. For one reason or another—of his own choice, or to conciliate different sections of opinion—the right hon. Gentleman had attempted to do a little of many things, and he had not succeeded in doing any of them well. In these circumstances he had no hesitation in voting for the Amendment.

MR. RICHARDSON (Nottingham, S.) said two statements regarding the tea duty had been made over and over again in the Committee, both of which he would attempt to disprove. The first was that the penny reduction in the tea duty was retained by the blender, and the second was that the very poor would not get the benefit of the reduction. In reply to the first of these statements he would read certain details from the advertisements that appeared in *The Grocer*, the principal organ of the tea trade, on May 12th, a week after the penny duty came off tea. He would take the advertisements of the four principal houses in the trade, each of which sold £500,000 sterling worth of tea a year. The first one showed that the price of the dearest tea on May 5th was 2s. 2d., and on May 12th 2s. 1d. The intermediate prices between that and the lowest were each reduced a penny, and the lowest priced tea which was on the earlier date 10½d. was on May 12th 9½d. So that the penny did not go into that blender's pocket. In regard to the second dealer, the highest priced tea on May 5th was 2s. 4d. and on May 12th 2s. 3d., the intermediate prices were reduced a penny, and the lowest grades were 10¼d. on May 5th and 9¼d. on May 12th. So that the penny did not go into that blender's pocket. In the case of the third dealer, the highest price on May 5th was 2s., on May 12th 1s. 11d.; lowest price on May 5th 10½d., on May 12th 9½d. So that the penny did not go into that blender's pocket. The fourth dealer's highest price was on May 5th 1s. 5½d., on May 12th 1s. 4½d.; lowest price on May 5th, 11d. on May 12th 10d. So that the penny did not go into that blender's pocket. Thus the whole of the penny in the cases of the four principal tea houses did not go into the blender's pocket. Now he would deal with another class of trade and one which would be admitted to indicate the working class consumption of tea. The best packet tea of the Manchester Wholesale Co-operative Society was sold on May 5th at 2s. 8d. and on May 12th at 2s. 7d.; the lowest price packet tea at 1s. 3½d. on May 5th and 1s. 2½d. on May 12th. That Society's bulk or loose teas were 2s. 6d. and 1s. respectively on May 5th and 2s. 5d. and 11d. respectively on May 12th. So that as far as the Manchester Co-operative Society, which distributed tea among working people, was concerned the penny did not go into the pockets of that society. Then where did the penny go to? The output of the Wholesale Co-operative Society of Manchester last year amounted to 18,401,593 pounds avoirdupois or 8,214 tons, and the amount paid in duty was £460,039 16s. 6d. And so by the reduction of the penny which he had shown did not go into the pockets of the blender, the working men themselves connected with that Society saved by the reduction of the tax £76,673 6s. 1d. Coming to the point as to whether the poorer classes got the benefit of the reduction, he thought the best proof of this would be found by an examination of the consumption of lowest-priced teas since the penny duty came off three weeks ago. He had made very careful inquiry among the great tea blenders, and he found that during the three months previous to the reduction the shilling tea sold amounted to 1 per cent of the whole of the tea sold. During the last three weeks the amount of shilling tea sold as compared with all kinds of tea sold had gone up from 1 per cent. to 5 per cent. In other words since the penny duty had been taken off tea the increase in the sale of shilling tea had gone up 450 per cent. By giving these figures he hoped he had at least proved to the satisfaction of the Committee that the penny had not gone into the pockets of the tea blenders and that the poorer classes were receiving the full benefit.

*Mr. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer had received valuable assistance of which he stood much in need in the speech of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down. He did not want to go into the branch of the subject to which the hon. Member had referred, but merely wished to say that on this occasion he intended to pursue the patriotic course of supporting His Majesty's Government. They could not expect a great reduction of this tax from a Liberal Government, because it was one of the facts that stared out from history that no Liberal Government up to the present had had the tea tax below sixpence, and that the beginning and the end of Liberal finance was what was intended to be done by the late Mr. Gladstone. What were the facts about that? The late Mr. Gladstone had a most magnificent opportunity for abolishing the tea tax and he deliberately abstained from doing it, and proposed to give relief to the income-tax and the income-taxpayer alone. They were all pledged to reduce one tax or another, but he felt a difficulty in supporting this reduction of the tea tax, because he was perfectly willing to adopt the logical position taken up by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. As to the coal tax, he had a predilection in favour of cheapening anything which cheapened raw material to the home producers of manufactured goods. For the same reason he was also impelled to point out the differences between tea on the one hand and sugar on the other. He thought that the reduction of the tax on sugar ought to come before the reduction of the tax upon tea, because sugar was an article which formed the raw material of British manufactures. As mere food, sugar was much better for the human frame than tea. A reduction in the tea duty now would be an obstacle to a reduction of the sugar duty hereafter.

Mr. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet) said they were all pleased to hear the information communicated by the hon. Member for South Nottingham, and if his information was correct, to the effect that there had been a reduction in the price of tea by 1d. on the pound all round since the reduction of the tax, they would be delighted. But it was a significant and remarkable fact that the process which the hon. Member described appeared to have been going on for some time before the reduction of the tax. This would seem to indicate that the operation had been going on for weeks, whereas the reduced duty had not been in operation for more than a fortnight. These facts would seem to indicate either that there had been a self-denying ordinance on the part of those who might have benefited by the tea duty, or that there had been the fall in prices to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had alluded. There was no doubt that the tea duty was a harsh, extraordinary, not to say a paradoxical, duty, and there was a general consensus of opinion that it was very much too high, and ought to be reduced, and so far as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had endeavoured to reduce it they accorded him their gratitude. The question was between a reduction of 1d. or 2d., and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said they had reduced it as much as they could. The question was, did this proposal have the effect of reducing the duty as much as possible? Would it not have been possible to have reduced the duty not by a penny but by 2d., so as to give the consumer an undoubted benefit and an unmistakable measure of relief? There could be no doubt it would have been quite possible to have done that by applying the available balance in the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the reduction of tea, instead of dividing it and applying one part to the reduction of tea and the other to the abolition of the coal duty. The effect of dealing with it in that way had been to make in appearance a reduction in the duty of tea avowedly and ostensibly for the benefit of the consumer of tea, and also a reduction in coal for the benefit of the consumer of coal. But in practice neither thing had happened. Tea was no cheaper on the one hand and coal was no cheaper on the other. He knew that there were certain figures published in the trade papers, and that certain statements were made by experts as to the effect of this reduction of the duty on tea. But in London during the last few days a very representative meeting of the great tea firms of the country had been held, and that meeting passed a unanimous resolution declaring that the reduction of the tea duty would not enable them to make any reduction in the price of tea. It had been suggested that there would be an improvement in the quality of the cheapest kinds of tea. He had no general knowledge of the question, and he had not heard of any demand for improved quality in the tea, but he had a general knowledge of a general demand for a reduction in the price. A reduction in the price had been asked for, but that had not been achieved. The ideal thing of course would be the abolition of the tea duty, and that apparently could not be realised. But if they could not realise the ideal, could they not endeavour to idealise the real? He thought they could, and that they should have gone a great way in that direction if, instead of splitting what might have been a real gift to the tea consumers and giving them a reduction of a penny, the right hon. Gentleman had given a reduction of 2d. It was for that reason he hoped this Amendment would be pressed to a division. If it were he should have great pleasure in supporting it.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N) said that as representing a large working-class constituency who felt very keenly the high tax on tea, he desired cordially to support the Amendment. There were always plenty of arguments to be found against the revision of taxation. It was part of the duty of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to defend himself from any arguments in favour of the reduction of taxation, and there never was a more eloquent or ingenious Chancellor of the Exchequer than the present occupant of that office. But they wanted to get him and the Liberal Party to go back to their high ideals of the past. One of those ideals which they used to put most commonly before the country was the free breakfast table. Where was the free breakfast table now? This Budget, owing to the careful and cautious Estimates of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, who framed them in no electioneering spirit, gave the Liberal Party an opportunity of once more unfurling the old banner of a free breakfast table; but unfortunately the Chancellor of the Exchequer, notwithstanding the large surplus at his disposal, had failed to realise this old ideal and tradition of the Liberal Party. He had introduced what he called a humdrum Budget, but so far as the tea duty was concerned he (Mr. Corbett) ventured to think it was a very foolish Budget. They were told by experts when the Budget was introduced that this reduction of a penny would do no good to the consumer. Experts were sometimes mistaken; but in this case they were not, for the price of tea had not been reduced, and the consumer had not benefited at all, the only gainers from the reduction of the tax being the tea merchants. They had to regard this matter from the point of view of the poorest consumers, and so far as their case was concerned they were no better off after this reduction than they were before. If hon. Members once realised that the poorer classes used tea three times a day, it would be seen that even a duty of a penny on the pound would press very hardly upon them. He should certainly vote in favour of the Amendment.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said he did not desire to detain the Committee long, but he thought some of the statements that had been made were worth traversing. The statements of the hon. Member for Nottingham, if entirely correct, were very serious indeed, and destroyed any argument that might be advanced concerning the tax on tea. But he ventured to question the accuracy of the figures. Another hon. Member had suggested that the reduction in the price of tea took place before the reduced tax came into operation. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was probably aware that the generally accepted figure for low-priced teas during the last ten years had been 4¾d. or 5d. a lb. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the price of this large stock of low-priced tea was reckoned at 3¾d. to 4d. If there had been that reduction in the price of tea since the duty was taken off, then his hon. friend behind him was quite right in saying the reduction in the price of these teas was due not to the reduction of the tax, but to the fact that there was a very large stock of low-priced teas on the market. He did not think in the history of the tea trade there had ever been so large a stock of low-priced teas, and he thought when the right hon. Gentleman came to examine the question he would find that the reduction of price was due to that, and not to the penny he had taken off the duty. These phenomena occurred in every trade, and it was quite possible that in regard to the tea trade it had synchronised with the penny being taken off the duty. It had been pointed out, and with truth, that this tax fell much more heavily upon the poor than on the rich man. The most careful calculations showed that the consumer of the high-priced tea paid only 20 per cent. duty on the value of the tea, but the consumer who bought the cheap tea sold at 1s. per lb. paid a duty equal to 160 per cent. of its value. This was the largest tea-consuming country in the world, and the tea was largely consumed by the poor classes. Every penny put on the tea duty struck the poor man in his tea basket. He thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer would receive plenty of assurances from people in the City and the poor buyers throughout the country that the price of tea had not been reduced at the little village store. The Manchester Co-operative Store had probably done a good stroke of business, but they were premature in putting forward their advertisements, and they got their reward, because tea was placed at a lower price by virtue of the fact that there was an immense amount of cheap tea on the market. This had made tea 1d. per lb. cheaper, and therefore the Chancellor of the Exchequer was able to say that the price of tea had gone down. He thought some other way ought to be found of raising the revenue than that of putting a tax upon the one necessary of the poor man's breakfast table. [An Hon. Member: Who put the tax on?] He agreed that both Parties were responsible for the tea tax, but he had always been opposed to high taxes upon the necessaries of life. He would much prefer an income tax from top to bottom, applied to the man who earned £30 a year and the man who had £14,000 a year. Such a tax would be much fairer than a tax upon the necessaries of life. The view he was putting forward on this question he had always held, and he had expressed it before in the House. When they made appeals to hon. Members to support an Amendment of this kind it was not because they wanted the support of the Labour Party. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer would reduce the tea duty by 2d. next year there was not a single Member sitting on the Opposition Benches who would not support him, although he could not promise their support to the proposals which the right hon. Gentleman might make for transferring the burden of taxation.

Mr. ASQUITH said he had listened with great pleasure to the speech of the hon. Member for Gravesend, because it proceeded entirely upon an assumption which he shared, namely, that a tax of this kind fell almost entirely upon the consumer. If this were not the case the hon. Member's impassioned appeal to get rid of the tax would be beside the point. His hon. friend had appealed to him as if he was putting something on instead of reducing the burden of the tea duty. He regretted very much that he was not able to reduce it more. It might be perfectly true that there happened to be an unusually large supply of cheap tea on the market, but the opinion of the expert which he had read, and other evidence, showed that the concurrent causes of the reduction were the abundance of the supply and the penny reduction. His object in intervening was to ask the Committee to allow them now to proceed to a decision upon this point.

*Captain CRAIG (Down, E.) said that the present reduction of a penny would never be felt by the poorer labouring classes. In the large centres, such as London, Liverpool, and Manchester, where competition was keen, he had no doubt that with the present reduction a difference would be felt, but he did not think the question, as it affected the more distant parts of the country, had been taken fully into consideration. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer had reduced the tax by 2d. instead of 1d. he would have earned the gratitude of those least able to voice their views in that Committee. The Committee was perfectly well aware that there were an enormous number of commodities necessary for life brought into the various large cities from abroad, and he contended that if the Chancellor of the Exchequer was at a loss for a corresponding tax to take the place of that upon tea, and one which would be spread more evenly over all breakfast-tables, he had an immense choice among these foreign imported commodities. He would call attention to the fact that the breakfast-tables of Britain involved an expenditure of something like £146,000,000 upon foreign imported meat, frozen beef, mutton, etc., upon which no tax was paid, whereas if but a tax of only 1 per cent. was levied upon these articles it would not only have the effect of allowing the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reduce the tea tax another penny, but would also afford protection to those agricultural classes which he represented in the distant parts of the country. He was perfectly convinced that if the tax upon tea were reduced by 2d. all classes would benefit. He would be delighted if the Chancellor of the Exchequer would assure them that the pledges of hon. Members on the Ministerial side were going at last to be considered by the Government. He hoped the right hon. Gentlemen would try and give them a free breakfast-table. It had been said that the price of tea to the consumer had actually been reduced to the extent of the penny which had been taken off. He would remind the Committee, however, that they had been face to face with similar reductions before, and it was only natural that those chiefly interested should compete with each other in trying to get the largest number of sales. A very trifling alteration in the quality would make up the whole difference of this penny reduction in taxation. Even if they took the figures which had been given as applying to the large towns as correct, he still contended that the benefit of the reduction of 1d. failed to reach those consumers of tea in the distant parts of the country, more especially in Ireland. In order to voice the sentiments of those of the agricultural class who lived away in the remote counties of Ireland, he had called attention to the question to show that they would not benefit by the reduction, although he was perfectly convinced that 2d. was a real reduction that would be felt by the poor people, who would benefit by it as much as those who lived in the large towns. He hoped a sufficient number of hon. Members would support the Amendment in the lobby to enable them to take this small step in the direction of a free breakfast-table.

MR. DUNN (Cornwall, Camborne) said he did not go back one step from the pledges he had given; he was absolutely opposed to all taxes upon the food of the people, and he would do his utmost to bring about an abolition of the tea duty. The question, however, to be considered was the best way in which this abolition might be brought about. He contended that the Amendment, coming as it did from the opposite side of the Committee, must arouse suspicion in view of the past experience they had had of the way in which the Unionist Government had dealt with the question. He was asked to support an Amendment to reduce the tax from 5d. to 4d., but he felt that if he did he should be false to the pledges he had given. They laughed, but it was so. He was asked to vote against the Government and so defeat the present proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. They were asked to destroy the present Budget, and that meant practically that they would place in power Gentlemen who had already dealt with the tea duty in a somewhat remarkable manner. It was because he believed that they would eventually reach the goal at which they were aiming by keeping in power a Chancellor of the Exchequer who was pledged to reduction that he should certainly vote against the Amendment.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said he could not understand why the Government, being pledged to abolish the tea duty, came down to the Committee and gave the absurd reason put forward by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for breaking their pledges. He was going to vote for this Amendment because he believed the duty upon tea was a tax upon food. It was not only a tax upon food, but a tax upon one of the poorest sections of the people. It was a tax which from its very nature fell with very great hardship upon the poorest section of the people. He believed from the figures which had been given that it would not be impossible to take the 2d. off tea at once. The hon. Member for South Nottingham had stated that in the last three months there had been an increase in the quantity of shilling tea sold—that instead of being 1 per cent. of the total, as it was three months ago, it had risen to 5 per cent. There was a perfectly reasonable explanation of these figures. It was well known that during the two months before the introduction of the Budget very little was done in the way of taking cheap tea out of bond. Tea merchants knew that the duty could not be increased, and that it might be reduced. After the Budget they filled up their stocks, and the consequence was that there was a very much increased demand. That accounted for the whole difference in the figures given by the hon. Member. In the higher qualities of tea the amount of the duty made little or no difference. He believed the arguments deduced from the figures given by the hon. Member to be entirely fallacious. The Chancellor of the Exchequer commenced his business with a very handsome legacy secured for him by his predecessor, and he had proceeded to make a mess of it by producing a Budget which did the country no good. It gave relief to practically no portion of the taxpayers. In dealing with the tea duty the important thing to keep in mind was the unit of payment in the coins of the realm. Therefore, in order to get the benefit of a reduction in the tea duty the buyer had to take at least half a pound. Poor people did not deal in half-pounds of tea, and it was impossible for them to get any advantage from this supposed relief of taxation. He was not going to suggest to-day—it would not be in order on this Amendment—that the whole of the revenue from tea should be got from a tax on automobiles, but he thought that would be a better way of raising the money. Supposing it were decided to take £1,000,000 off tea, the proper way to do it would be to divide the commodity into two qualities—the better class half, and the lower class half—and to leave the duty alone on the higher class half which paid a comparatively small portion of the tax in relation to its value, while taking 2d. off the cheap tea of the poor people if the tax could not be taken off altogether. The tea tax was one of the most unjust taxes, for while the poor man paid 150 per cent., the rich man only paid 20 per cent. on the value of the article. The tax in the case of the cheaper qualities of tea was altogether out of proportion to its value.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said he hoped the time would come when the tea duty, if they were still to have it, would be treated in a totally different way from that which obtained at present. He did not see why there should not be an *ad valorem* duty on tea instead of the present rule of thumb specific duty with all its want of logic, and all its burden on the working people of the country. A large quantity of the tea consumed by the working classes was tea dust, the value of which was 1½d. per pound. The tax on that tea was 5d. per pound, and the tax was just the same on the tea worth 3s. per pound, which was consumed by the well-to-do classes. It was an abominable outrage committed on the poor people of this country. He did not think it ought to pass the wit of man to devise a more equitable method of taxation. There was no difficulty in finding other articles on which to place taxes. Why should not the Chancellor of the Exchequer tax diamonds? They came in free at present, and surely they could bear a tax. Why should not the right hon. Gentleman tax some of the multitude of foreign manufactured goods which came into the country, competing with our own products and destroying the employment of our people? He hoped the hon. Gentlemen opposite who had given pledges to their constituents in favour of reducing this heavy burden on the food of the people would march into the lobby in support of the Amendment.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) said the tax on tea fell much more heavily on the poor than on the rich, from the fact that the duty was the same on all qualities of tea, irrespective of the price. There were plenty of luxuries used by the rich which could very well be taxed. The taxes would be paid by the rich, and the foreigner would pay some of the revenue so raised.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 255; Noes, 150. (Division List, No. 104.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agar-Robartes, Hon. T. C.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carylon
Benn, J. Williams (Devonp'rt)
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J.H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberd'n
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert S. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, D. (Montgomery Co.)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H. (S. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.)
Dodd, W. H.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Hon., S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset N
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accringt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
Paul, Herbert
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert Jn. (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell, (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richardson, A.

Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Chas. E.(Manchest'r)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt .Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxeth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, D. Alfred (Merthyr)
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southamptn
Wason, Jn. Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn A J. (City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brace, William
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J A (Worc.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, Sir Edward (City Lond.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Doughtly, Sir George
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Ffrench, Peter
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey, F.W.F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hodge, John
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jackson, R. S.
Jenkins, J.
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareh'm
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lutterell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parket, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Royner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, A H (Ashton under Lyne)
Shackleton, David James
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Snowden, P.
Starkey, John R.
Steadman, W. C.
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J.G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomas, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W.H. (Lancashire)

Walsh, Stephen
Wardle, George J.
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wlison, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Courthope and Mr. Ashley.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*MR. COURTHOPE said that the clause dealt with the tobacco duties, and he proposed to move to omit it. There was no doubt that the differentiation of duty between tobacco leaf and stripped tobacco had done no harm to the consumer, and had provided a good deal of employment for the British workman. They had it in the words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself that since this duty on stripped tobacco was imposed that tobacco had come in more and more in a raw condition and less and less in the condition of stripped tobacco. The figures for the last three years were rather extraordinary. During the year ended March 31st, 1904, we imported 53,000,000 lbs. of stripped tobacco, and 33,000,000 lbs. of leaf. During the following year, that was after the differentiation, we imported 21,500,000 lbs. of stripped, and 82,000,000 lbs. of the raw leaf, and in the year that had just concluded we only imported 12,000,000 lbs. of stripped and 76,000,000 of the raw leaf. The computation made by his right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham was not disputed that on an average a man stripped 5,000 lbs. a year. Calculating on this basis, we find that the leaf imported last year found continuous employment for 15,000 people in England. The employment of people during the two years that the differentiation existed had more than doubled. The increase was 110 per cent. in the amount of employment given to British workpeople who were engaged in stripping tobacco. One was led to inquire under these circumstances why was this duty being taken off? One looked naturally to the utterances of the right hon. Gentleman who was responsible for the Finance Bill, and they found that one of his reasons was that the stripping industry in this country was carried on under very bad conditions. Why not improve the conditions instead of killing the industry? The remedy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was like cutting off a man's legs in order to prevent his feet getting wet. Another reason was that this duty violates the sacred shibboleth of our policy of free imports, but what had happened in this case was a standing proof of the fallacy of that policy. The only effect of the change would be, not to benefit the revenue or the consumer, but to throw thousands of British workmen out of work and to give the work they were now doing to the foreigner. Those who bought tobacco were bound to pay something for the price of stripping, and surely it was more satisfactory that the tobacco purchaser in this country should pay the wages for stripping tobacco into British pockets rather than into foreign pockets. He hoped the Committee would vote against Clause 2.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth) joined in the hope expressed by the hon. Member for Rye. The policy of transferring the stripping trade which had now been secured by the British manufacturer to the foreigner was one to which he gave the most determined opposition. Tobacco leaf, like cabbage leaf, had a stalk, and the question was whether tobacco leaf should be sent over here unstripped or whether it should be stripped in America or elsewhere and sent over here in a state fit to be used in manufacture. The duty upon stripped tobacco had almost entirely transferred this work of stripping the leaves to England, instead of leaving it to be done in the United States and other countries whence the tobacco came. The duty upon stripped tobacco had had a most remarkable result, and this result had taken place much more quickly than those who advocated a change in our fiscal policy would have anticipated. Three years ago 5,000 people were employed in stripping tobacco in England, but in consequence of the slight change in duty there were now 15,000 people engaged in that industry. These 15,000 people were earning a livelihood; it might be a poor one, but still it was a livelihood. It was said that this was not a high-class process of manufacture, and that therefore it ought not to be encouraged, but he did not think the Committee should look only after the high-class manufacturers and the highly paid artisans of this country, and not think of the poor manufacturer and the more poorly paid artisan. It was true that they might be engaged in a sweated industry, but if they took away from these people this work, they took away the only work which they were engaged in doing, and the only industry which they had the chance of performing. It was true that it was a badly-paid industry, and that the work was performed under bad conditions, but it seemed to him that the Government ought rather to see that those conditions were improved, and the wages increased, than to take away the work from English people and place it in the hands of foreigners. It was obvious that if the differentiation was abolished the foreigners would get this work which now employed an additional 10,000 people, although the same profits, if not larger profits, would be made by the tobacco magnates of this country. The tobacco kings of Bristol were making out of tobacco the most enormous profits. The profits which they earned, indeed, were startling, and amounted to hundreds of thousands of pounds. It might even be that the change now proposed might slightly increase those profits, but it was the interest of the Committee to look after the men engaged in the industry, and to see that the work they were engaged upon was not sent abroad. If the duty was taken off stripped tobacco, the Americans would get the work, and although there might be a slight benefit gained by the tobacco monopoly, there would be no benefit gained by the consumer, and these ten or fifteen thousand people would lose their work. On these grounds he would certainly vote that this change should not be made, because, as he had said, it would rob these people of their work and their pay.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN invited the Chancellor of the Exchequer to explain his reasons for making the proposed change, as to which he avowed himself entirely in the dark. The history of the duty, which he himself put on when in office, was very simple. When, two years ago, he had to frame his first Budget, with a deficit of four millions to meet, he did not think it worth while to consider any additional taxation which would not bring in at least a million a year. When he had met the deficit he found he had not the working margin necessary for safety, and he then said to his advisers that now they had come to the day of small things; if they had a change to propose which would bring in half a million a year that would be exactly what he wanted. They advised him that he would find such a change in the tobacco duties, and they expressed the opinion on grounds of justice and equity that that change should have long ago been made. He agreed with the proposal, with the result that he was able to obtain substantially the money he expected. Now the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to upset that arrangement. Why did the right hon. Gentleman make the change at all? Granting that it had, as was alleged, some protective effect, was that a sufficient reason for throwing the trade into confusion again, and reopening the whole question? Did hon. Gentlemen opposite think that the other duties on manufactured tobacco should also be taken off? The present scale of tobacco duties was so protective that it had practically eliminated all foreign competition in manufactured tobacco in the home market, and when the great American trust attempted to invade that market, the home manufacturers formed a trust of their own, and beat their rivals out of the field. His first question, then, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer was, why did he strain at a gnat and swallow a camel, why did he trouble about this small matter between strips and leaf while he re-enacted the substantial and widespread protection which existed in the whole scale of the tobacco duties? His second question was, why, having decided on altering the rate of differentiation between strips and leaf, had the right hon. Gentleman fixed upon a halfpenny as the exact measure of differentiation which justice and equity demanded? When his right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham asked the right hon. Gentleman to state in a Return his reasons for the change, the right hon. Gentleman gave the most extraordinary answer that a Chancellor of the Exchequer had ever offered to the House, namely, that he could not do it, because all his calculations were in his own head.

MR. ASQUITH: If the right hon. Gentleman read my next sentence he would find that I said the whole of the material was contained in the Report of the Departmental Committee which the right hon. Gentleman himself appointed.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he was aware of that. When he imposed that differentiation his first consideration, and he frankly admitted it, was to obtain the sum of money his financial necessities demanded. But he was advised by members of that Committee and by his own financial advisers that the differentiation was not unfair, and it surprised him and awakened a legitimate curiosity on his part to hear the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer say that in the Report of that same Committee he (Mr. A. Chamberlain) would find all the materials which would prove to him that this differentiation should have been 3½d. He studied the Report very carefully two years ago, and had some recollection still of what was in it, and the right hon. Gentleman would not deny that there was a great deal of information there relating to tobacco, and that several varieties of tobacco were dealt with in the Report. But there were many other varieties known to the market which were not dealt with in the Report, and for the right hon. Gentleman to refer the Committee to the labours of that Committee for information was like setting them to search for a needle in a haystack, and he did not think that the needle was there after all. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman to unlock the recesses of his mind and lay bare to the Committee the process of logical digestion by which he had converted the details of that Report into an argument for his differentiation of ½d. He rejoiced that after all that had been said during the last two years, and after all the stress of the contests in these debates, the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, however much he desired to upset the decision of his predecessors upon this point, had himself been forced to the conclusion that a differentiation was needed and that nothing less than a differentiation would be satisfactory. When he had heard the observations which the right hon. Gentleman would, he hoped, make upon this matter, he might have himself some further observations to address to the Committee, but as he was at this time merely a searcher after truth he would detain the Committee no longer.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.) said perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would not mind his replying on this occasion as it was a question which had been a matter of controversy between them before. If the right hon. Gentleman asked why the differentiation between leaf and strips was put at ½d., the answer was contained in the obvervation just made by him that his first consideration in 1904 in imposing a differentiation in duty of 3d. was to obtain money. The first consideration of his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in making this differentiation of ½d. instead of 3d. was that he wished to have a duty productive of revenue instead of a duty which, while it had been very disagreeable to the trade, did not bring in any revenue. In 1904 the right hon. Gentleman opposite, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, was warned that the duty of 3d. would not bring in revenue when the existing stock of strips was exhausted. There were then in stock 142,000,000 lbs. of strips. And it was quite true that while that stock was in existence the right hon. Gentleman could get this extra duty of 3d.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Hear, hear.

MR. MCKENNA: Yes, but at what a price. It involved a loss of 3d. a lb. to the owners of those stocks. They had to enter into competition with owners of new imported leaf upon which there was no differential duty of 3d., and the result was that this duty of 3d. was charged on the stock of strips. In the course of the debate when the right hon. Gentleman reduced the differential duty of 3d. to 1½d. he was again warned that such a duty would be destructive of the importation of strips. The reply to that was that it was rather a beneficial thing to put an end to the importation of strips, because it would enable the stripping to be done in this country. They had now to consider the question of revenue. The reason why this differential duty had been reduced to ½d. was that they wanted revenue, and it had been fixed at ½d. because it was believed that such a duty would be productive of revenue. The next point put by the right hon. Gentleman was why the sum of ½d. was fixed by, not 1d. or 1½d. Well, they had had experience since 1904, they had seen that the duty of 3d. had been absolutely non-productive of revenue, and they had seen the operation of the differential duty of 1½d. which was subsequently placed upon the stocks in bond. They had seen as the effect of that, that the amount of strips taken out of bond had steadily declined, and that the amount of leaf taken out of bond had steadily increased. They had to remember that the strips taken out of bond were strips which were held in this country in bond at the time of the Finance Act of 1904. There was no market in the world for strips except the British market, and, there being no market for these strips which were in bond in 1904, unless they had been taken out of bond and sold they would have rotted in the bonded warehouses. Consequently the owners had to sell them, but in spite of the urgent compulsion upon the owners to sell these strips they had not been able to do so in competition with other owners of strips with a differential duty of 1½d., and the result was that in the experience of the revenue authorities the drawback on that stock was seriously increased. The right hon. Gentleman when supporting his differentiation of duty in 1904 gave to the Committee an example. He took four specimens of leaf and strips which had been tested for sand and moisture for the purpose of estimating the duty upon strips and leaf respectively. He showed by those samples that there was more sand and moisture in the leaf than in the strips, and he concluded that the duty cost on a given quantity of leaf was 3d. per lb. higher than on the same quantity of strips. The right hon. Gentleman chose samples of a particular kind of tobacco, that of "Bright Virginia;" but if he had taken another kind of tobacco, that known as "Western Leaf," which was a stouter plant, and the sand in which was of a muddier kind than that in "Bright Virginia," he would have shown, not that the duty cost on leaf was higher than on strips, but that it was practically equal. They had to look at tobacco as a whole, and, on the whole range of tobacco, the Drawback Committee found that stalks were generally 1 or 2 per cent. moister than the rest of the leaf. They took, not four samples as did the right hon. Gentleman, but a very large number of analyses of sand in different kinds of tobacco, and, working from those figures and from the statements of the Drawback Committee, they found that some differentiation was justified. It was almost impossible to settle a figure of equality; but looking at the result of these calculations and taking them as a guide, they came to the conclusion that, on balance, some slight, but very slight, differentiation might be made in favour of strips as against leaf. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had made such a difference—namely, ½d.—as would ensure that the existing holders of leaf would be able to find a market for their goods without suffering loss.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN asked whether the right hon. Gentleman suggested that the ½d. should be removed as soon as they had disposed of their stocks, and what was the revenue that it was estimated would be received from the differential duty.

MR. McKENNA said it was not intended to remove the ½d. It was hoped this would be a final settlement of the tobacco question. The right hon. Gentleman had spoken of the disturbance and dislocation of trade; but the testimony of the trade, so far as it had reached the Treasury, had not been indicative of disturbance, but of complete satisfaction. As to the second Question of the right hon. Gentleman, the total amount of raw tobacco taken out of bond before consumption was, roughly speaking, about 88,000,000 lb. in the course of the year, and it was estimated that somewhere between 40,000,000 lb. and 50,000,000 lb. would be taken out in the form of strips this year. These were rough estimates. It was impossible to give any exact estimates because it was not known what amount of strips would be in the market. No more strips would come into the market until the new crop at the end of the year, and it was not known how much would be available to be taken out at the end of the year.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton) said they were accustomed on the Opposition side to look to the Party opposite for light and leading on all questions relating to taxation, for they held themselves up to be—and the country at the general election rather accepted them as—the great authorities on the principles of Customs duties. But what was the case now as regarded tobacco? The duty on raw tobacco was 3s., and that on manufactured tobacco 3s. 10d. The Customs Returns of last year showed as clearly as possible that the extra duty on manufactured tobacco had absolutely stopped the importation of manufactured tobacco, and the whole of the tobacco at present came in under the head of raw tobacco. It was said that the reason of the reduction to ½d. was that it might be productive of revenue, but if they looked at the result since Mr. Gladstone brought the tax into existence, they would find it had been practically to destroy the revenue which used to be derived from the importation of manufactured tobacco. Instead, the raw tobacco came into this country in larger quantities at the lower rate of 3s., and a great industry had been created in Bristol, Liverpool, and other cities of this country which would not have sprung up had there been an equal duty upon raw and manufactured tobacco coming into the country. Yet it was curious to note that the directors of the Imperial Tobacco Company, who benefited by this protective duty, sat on the Ministerial side of the House in support of free trade, and he could not understand how the Chancellor of the Exchequer could reconcile his strict notions about free trade with the maintenance of this protective duty. While the right hon. Gentleman and his friends were consistent when it came to suggestions as to changes, they would not make changes that would bring their practice into agreement with their principles. There was exactly the same thing in chocolate. All manufactured chocolate coming from abroad paid a differential duty of ½d. Surely if it were wrong to put a duty on manufactured articles there should be no duty on manufactured tobacco or on manufactured chocolate. Yet they allowed these duties to continue and at the same time accused others of being false to their principles in desiring that there should be some duty on manufactured articles to preserve the industries of this country.

MR. ASQUITH said his hon. friend had dealt with the main question with such admirable lucidity and cogency that he should not take up time by attempting to add, even if he could, anything to his exposition of the subject. Experiments had shown that there was a difference between strips and leaf, and ½d. appeared to them to be approximately the measure of that difference. The effect of the duty of 3d. had been to exclude strips altogether from this market, and from the point of view of obtaining revenue it was useless. Under a duty of ½d. strips would come in, and an appreciable revenue would be derived from them. He did not deny that there was a protective element, though not to a large extent, in the scale of tobacco duties. Mr. Gladstone found a scale of highly protective duties, and he reduced that scale as much as he thought the trade could bear. He said what every Minister of finance had said, that when a trade had grown up under the shadow of protection a vast number of vested interests were engendered, and however strong their desire might be for free trade, they could not at once, without enormous injustice, get rid of that system. That was why he retained to an extent, which had been very much exaggerated, a protective element in duties which had been highly protective before. But the right hon. Gentleman opposite introduced in 1904 for the first time a new protective element which no one had dreamt of before. They had, at any rate, got rid of that. No one in the trade wanted to retain it, and it was unproductive to the revenue. And yet they were accused of being inconsistent because they had not reduced the whole scale of tobacco duties which had been in existence for years. They were told that an artificial and fostered industry, which had no natural roots in the soil of the country, had come into existence during the two years that this duty had existed. Could there be a stronger argument in favour of dealing with this matter without delay? The effect of this reduction would not be felt for two years, and there was, therefore, ample time for the trade to adjust itself to the new conditions, and he hoped and believed it would be to the benefit of the revenue itself. That was a perfectly logical and consistent position to take up.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he was very much obliged for the very fair answer that had been given to his questions. When, however, the right hon. Gentleman asked him to admit that the action of the Government was logical or consistent, he was making a greater demand upon him than he felt prepared to grant. They might take it from the admission of the Secretary of the Treasury that up to the time of the differentiation of the duty there was protection, not for a home industry, but for the foreign stripping of leaf. The hon. Gentleman hoped that a halfpenny would put strips and the whole leaf on an equality. His recollection of the tables in the report, he was sorry to say, was two years old, and he should not under the circumstances be disposed to enter upon so technical an argument as would be necessary in order to attempt to confound the hon. Gentleman's reasoning upon the point. He would only record his opinion that differentiation of a halfpenny would restore to the foreign stripping industry some portion of the protection which it had before he differentiated between the two sorts of tobacco.

MR. McKENNA: The drawback remains.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he took that into account, and without attempting to argue it he would merely express his opinion that the halfpenny which the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of the Treasury after, he thought, tossing up, had come to the conclusion was about a fair sum, was really not adequate to the purpose which they admitted justice and equity required. He came to the more interesting side of the question. Was it worth while to make this small change in the tobacco duty unless they were prepared to remove from the whole of the tobacco duties all taint of protection? Was it not absurd to tinker at this little question of strips while leaving the big question untouched? The right hon. Gentleman had said that Mr. Gladstone found the tobacco duties highly protective and that he reduced them as much as he thought the trade could bear. That was rather a singular principle to go upon. What meaning did the right hon. Gentleman attach to the words "as much as the trade could bear." At the time of the greatest triumph of free trade the great Ministry of free trade hesitated to take off all the protective duties, but stopped short at the stripped tobacco. Was it worth while to sacrifice the stripping industry which had grown up in this country and the subsidary trades which it had stimulated? Why did the people accept it? It was because they could not find better work to do, and without a thought the Government swept away their employment for a mere economic pedantry. It was not worth while to make this change. It would deprive our people of some employment they might fairly have had, and it was hypercritical and ridiculous to make this fuss about one small point while leaving the greater block of duties untouched and unaltered.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 266; Noes 44. (Division List No. 105.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Jn. Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carylon
Benn, W. (T'wr Hamlets, S. Geo.)
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberd'n

Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley,Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Clough, W.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,CH (Sussex,E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edwards (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Pete
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert Jn.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J Keir (MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen,W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Horden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman (Somers't,N
Hudson, Walter
Jackson, R. S.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,Sir Joseph (F.(Accringt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkBghs)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeigh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Marks, G. Croydon (Launcest'n
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tillett, Louis John
Torrance, A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander

Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J. A. (Worc
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Haddock, George R.
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Starkey, John R.
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Courthope and Mr. Bridgeman.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said that he rose to oppose this clause, as he had done for several years past. He had the responsibility for some time of suggesting this tax, and now that it had been practically thrown over by both Parties in the House he wished to justify the responsible position he had taken up. He would like to say to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he did not think he had ever answered the arguments in favour of this coal tax. There was no single tax, he contended, which could raise £2,000,000 a year with as little drawback to the prosperity of the country as this one. He would not say who paid the tax; but he thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself rather believed that the foreigner paid it, especially in regard to steam coal. [Cries of "No."] He insisted that that was the case in regard to Welsh smokeless coal, because all the navies of the world must have it. He knew something about the coal trade and of the Westphalian trade, which was the only competitor with the Welsh coal trade, and he could assert that at least one-half of the coal tax fell upon the foreigner. We had much more of a monopoly in our coal than any other country and we ought to take advantage of it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had seemed to suggest that we were afraid that the coal of this country would run out, and he had referred to the opinion of the late Professor Stanley Jevons as an argument in his favour. Personally he had never argued that the coal ought to be kept in this country because our supplies would run out very soon. The Royal Commission had established that it would not, although that might be taken with a grain of salt. But let those supplies be as large as anyone liked to imagine, he put it that to abandon this duty was to abandon the fundamental principle of democratic policy. Coal was a gift from Providence and did not come within the same rules as manufactured products. He was a land-nationaliser and on that ground alone he insisted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had, by remitting this tax, deserted the fundamental principles of that Party. The coal and all the mineral wealth of the country belonged to the nation, and when any part of that property was parted with there should be a *quid pro quo.* What happened in regard to export coal? The landlord got his royalty, the miner his wages, the shipowner his freights, but where did the nation come in? He insisted that this coal export duty was the assertion of the nation's property in the coal, and was a means of getting some return from it. The real value of coal lay in its use, and if, say, forty tons were raised for consumption in this country it would give employment to so many people; but if exported it would afford no benefit to any one in this country. He had listened to all the debates on this question and had heard weeping millionaires objecting to the tax, and claiming sympathy for the industrial classes. But now that the Labour movement had come to the front, the Committee must remember that Toryism was class legislation. It was just as much Toryism if the legislation was for the landlord classes as for the working classes. Liberalism was legislation for the nation as a whole. He objected to part with this tax which was part of the national property and belonged to himself and every citizen of the nation. The proposal to abolish it was bad economics, unjust to the citizen and a contradiction of the fundamental conditions of Radicalism.

*MR. BRACE (Glamorganshire, S.) said he had listened with great attention to the extraordinary speech of the hon. Member—a speech which clearly showed how little the speaker knew of the subject he was dealing with. He had said that Welsh coal had a monopoly, but that was not true. It was true that they had a monopoly of Welsh smokeless coal, but the total output of that coal was very little taken in comparison with the total output of Wales. As a matter of fact when the hon. Member stated that the navies of the world were bound to buy Welsh coal he stated that which was absolutely alien to the truth. The French Navy used none in time of peace, and the Welsh collier must live in time of peace as well as in time of war. It was true that they might make a good deal of money in time of war, but war was, speaking broadly, a disadvantage to us as a nation, and if it came about it brought corresponding disadvantages to the Welsh collier in return for the advantages he reaped. The hon. Member did not seem to appreciate that this export tax upon coal had had a very serious effect upon the Welsh coal-producing counties. This was so much the case that in West Wales thousands of men had been thrown out of employment and many collieries had been closed or partially closed down. It was a fact which the Committee should remember that the people in other countries who bought our coal even for preference encouraged the importation of coal from competing countries; so that by having a choice of coals to select from, leaving outside altogether the question of quality, or what coal best suited them, they secured, by the competition created between British and other countries' coals, a lever to keep prices down to a lower point than they could expect, had they only one source of supply to draw upon. The result was that a coal tax was a tax upon our competing power. He believed he was the only member of the Royal Commission on Coal Supplies present, which Commission, after a long and careful inquiry, unanimously reported against the continuation of the coal tax. The hon. Member said he had been in Holland, but when he was there did he make any inquiries about the coal tax? If he had he would have found that in consequence of that tax Welsh coal had been driven altogether out of the Dutch market and that the Germans had captured the trade. Not only that, we had been deprived of our monopoly in the Mediterranean. No country liked to be dependent upon another for its supply of a particular article, and therefore they started with this handicap, that if they wished to sell coal to France, France would encourage other countries to come in and compete. This surely was a sufficiently heavy handicap without having an export tax added to it. There were Members who thought that there ought to be five times the amount of the tax placed upon exported coal; but it was because of the evidence given that the conviction was borne in upon the minds of the Commissioners that an export tax was not only unfair in its incidence but unfair and ruinous to the export industry of the country. He was speaking not for millionaire coal owners, but for the working man whose wages were reduced by the coal tax. When the coal tax came into operation coal owners sold their coal, say, at ten shillings plus one shilling tax; the selling rate of coal was an effective factor in determining the rate of wages, and that one shilling tax had the effect of reducing the wages of coal workers in the South Wales and other coal fields by eight and three quarters per cent. If this matter only concerned the interests of the coal owners he should not say a word against the tax, but it was because he was convinced that it affected the wages of the collier that he thanked the Chancellor of the Exchequer for taking the duty off. The Royal Commission on Coal Supplies unanimously resolved that this tax was disadvantageous to the interests of the country, although several of the Commissioners started with a strong feeling in its favour. If when this country was in competition with Germany, America, France, and Belgium, and we were endeavouring to hold our own in the markets of the world, a tax of this kind was imposed, it really was a tax upon industry, and the only persons who gained any advantage were the foreigners, because they got cheaper coal elsewhere. He thought the unanimous decision of the Commission should have attention paid to it, and that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was right in adopting the course which he had done. He was extremely obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for taking off this tax, and in the interests of the workman he thought they were justified in asking the Committee to affirm his decision.

*MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) considered that the Committee ought to have had a little further explanation from the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the reasons for repealing this tax. He had told them that the Liberal Party were bound by their pledges to their constituents, and he supposed that that meant that this policy was adopted in consequence of another mandate to the Liberal Party. No doubt one of the reasons for taking off this tax was that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might otherwise have received a mandate from East Fife not to go back there again. The general opinion of the country was strongly opposed to the abolition of the tax, which brought in an increasing revenue, and which, according to the right hon. Gentleman's admission, was paid by the foreigner.

MR. ASQUITH: I did not say so.

*MR. HICKS BEACH said that the right hon. Gentleman had refrained from abolishing the tax before November, because he said there were clauses in all contracts to the effect that, if the tax were taken off, the foreigner was to have the benefit. It had been predicted that the tax would ruin the coal trade and the mineowners. But the total export of coal had increased from 58,405,000 tons in 1900, to 67,160,000 tons in 1905. Moreover, while the percentage of exports to the total output in 1900 was 25·93 per cent. in 1905 the percentage was 28·4 per cent. Then it was urged that the export of the more valuable coal had decreased and that of the small coal had increased. But while the quantity of coal, the value of which did not exceed 5s. a ton, exported during 1902 was 785,369 tons, and had increased by about 1,000,000 tons in 1905; and while the quantity exceeding 8s. a ton, which in 1902 amounted to 36,762,554 tons, had decreased by about 3,000,000 tons in 1905; yet the exports of coal which exceeded in value 7s. per ton but not 8s., the coal which bore most of the tax, had very much increased. For in 1902 the total exports of this class of coal were 2,304,000 tons, and in 1905 they had increased to 8,132,000 tons. That was to say, the exports in that class of coal had increased far more in proportion than in the coal which did not bear the tax at all. The reason which chiefly accounted for the decrease of the export of coal which exceeded 8s. a ton in value was that since the imposition of this tax the price of coal had very greatly decreased. The hon. Member for South Glamorganshire had said that as a result of this tax a great many collieries in South Wales had been shut down, and that the production of this class of coal had decreased. Was it really true that any colliery was shut down as a result of this export duty? If they had been closed it was owing to the general fall in the prices of coal and not owing to the effects of this duty. He did not think that any hon. Member had adduced any argument to shew that the imposition of this tax had done any harm to the home consumer. But if, as a result of its abolition, the export of coal greatly increased, what would be the effect upon the consumers in this country? He already knew of an instance of a railway company in the Metropolis which consumed a large amount of Welsh smokeless coal, and which had placed large orders for this class of coal in South Wales where the contractor tendering for further orders wrote to the company, saying that owing to the expected great increase in the export of this class of coal as the result of the abolition of the tax, he would have to increase the price to the company by 1s. a ton after August 1st, which showed that if by the abolition of this tax the price of coal was to be raised to the home consumers considerable damage was going to be done to them, and it was obvious that it would have a very prejudical effect upon the large industries of this country, they being the greatest consumers. The Chancellor of the Exchequer thought that a great improvement would result in the export trade from the abolition of the tax, but it was obvious what the result would be to the home consumer. He objected to the abolition because he thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer ought not to judge of the position by the coal trade at this moment. It might be said that it was an immoral tax, but it produced a large revenue and did not hurt any people in this country. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had admitted that it was impossible to justify an income-tax of 1s. in the £, declaring that it was a burden on the industry of the country, which affected not only profits but wages. By taking off the coal tax the right hon. Gentleman had deprived himself not only of an opportunity of reducing the income-tax by 1d. in the £ this year, but also of doing anything of the kind next year.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.) said that if the arguments of his hon. friend the Member for Bolton had been sound they would have convinced every Member of the Committee, but the facts adduced and the arguments founded upon them derived their fallacies from the rhetoric his hon. friend had employed. There was a wide difference between rhetoric and reason. He himself was a pronounced land nationaliser, and if his hon. friend would say that not only the coal but the surface should belong to the people he would be in entire agreement with him. But if his hon. friend desired to make the coal a monopoly and place a prohibitive tax upon it in order to keep it within the confines of this country, then the effect would be to starve the workmen. The hon. Member for Tewkesbury would retain the coal tax for the purpose of taking 1d. off the income-tax. It would be observed that there was nothing selfish in the hon. Member. The workmen's wages since 1900 had been reduced far and away beyond the burden from which the income-tax payer suffered. He was stating words of truth and soberness, and spoke of facts which had come within the purview of his experience, and he said that the workmen of the county of Durham had had thirty per cent. taken off their wages since 1900 when this tax was imposed.

*MR. HICKS BEACH: Surely the hon. Gentleman does not infer that that thirty per cent. reduction was due to this 1s. tax.

*MR. JOHN WILSON said he did not know that it could be mathematically demonstrated that that was so, but he brought it forward as a very strong and strange coincidence, and if the hon. Member denied it the burden of proof lay upon him. This question had been argued many times on the floor of the House, and he thought that by their continued wearying of the late Government they last year forced the then Chancellor of the Exchequer to admit that this was an unfair tax. Much had been made by the hon. Member for Tewkesbury of the fact that the volume of the trade had increased in spite of the tax, but surely it was likely to increase through the general progress of trade. Was a country prosperous whose trade stagnated? Did he not know that there were three stages of a country's history—the progressive, the stationary, and the retrogressive? John Stuart Mill had said that as soon as a nation touched the point where its trade stagnated, it retrograded. There were 800,000 men and boys working in the mines of this country every day, and about 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 of people were dependent on their earnings. The coal tax had been the means of developing the coal fields of Westphalia and Germany, and it had created competition by foreigners which but for the tax this country would never have had. In Northumberland 90 per cent. of the coal was exported, and in the two northern counties they regulated their wages as near as they could by the selling price of coal. If they put a shilling tax upon the coalfields of this country, and remembered that nine out of every ten tons had to be exported to keep the Northumberland coal mines going, they would see immediately what effect it would have upon their wages. There was another point of view, namely, that it induced competition in this country between one coal field and another. It had been said that mines had been stopped. Of that he was confident. It had been said that batches of workmen had been discharged. That he well knew. Villages had been made desolate by the tax. He spoke for the whole of the mining community when he declared that they were prepared to pay every national tax. They did not want class legislation. This tax was imposed as a war tax. It was put on to meet an emergency of the hour. He added his word of thanks to the Chancellor of the Exchequer who, bringing in a Budget which was only one-fourth his, had faced the situation and removed the coal tax. He was confident the right hon. Gentleman would receive the gratitude of the whole of the mining population of the country.

*CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) said he supported the Amendment most heartily. It seemed to be rather an anomaly that at one period of the discussion they should have to plead with the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer to do what he possibly could to stretch a point in the interests of some of the poorer classes in Ireland and take another penny off tea, and that a little later in the evening they should have to oppose the right hon. Gentleman's proposal to do away with a tax which brought in such a substantial amount of revenue per annum. He disagreed with the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down: The continuity of taxation, especially when it broadened the basis of taxation, appeared to him to be invaluable. They seemed to be constantly going back to the taxation of tea, sugar, and other table necessities for the working classes, and he could not be convinced that greater benefits would not accrue to the great mass of people if the tea duty were reduced, and the coal duty kept on. He trusted before the debate had proceeded much further they would have some remarks from the hon. Member for the Rhondda Valley, because they wanted all the information possible from those who were in closest touch with the trade. This debate had elicited the important point that the export from the mines had increased 7,000,000 tons in 1905 as compared with 1902. The hon. Member for Mid Durham had said that wages in his particular locality had fallen 30 per cent. If the extra exportation of this commodity meant that wages fell, then he would certainly be prepared to withdraw all opposition to the Government's proposal; but he could not conceive the idea of a 30 per cent. fall in wages being attributed to the extra output of 7,000,000 tons. For these reasons he felt that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not only relegating £2,000,000 to oblivion, but he was also narrowing the basis of taxation, which a large number of them felt ought to be extended. The right hon. Gentleman had adopted the old cut and dried methods of imposing taxation upon breakfast commodities. The hon. Member for Bolton had put his case very clearly and concisely in favour of this tax being kept on, but he (Captain Craig) supported it on other grounds. Had hon. Members opposite considered where the coal exported from this country found a market? It went to foreign markets, to foreign navies, and it fed furnaces which were competing with the manufacturers in this country. The Chancellor of the Exchequer might have applied the two millions to the reduction of the tea duty which was borne directly by the working classes. He appealed to the Committee to support the Amendment.

MR. ASQUITH said he wished to point out in a few words the grounds on which the Government proposed that this tax should no longer form part of our fiscal system. It was not in the interest of this or that class of employers or of employed, but in the interest of the community as a whole that it was removed. The tax had almost every vice. In the first place it was the solitary export duty in the whole of our fiscal system. Although it purported to be a tax on coal, it was only a tax on that part of the coal which was exported, and, therefore, fell with unjust and uneven incidence on the coal industry. Whatever theorists might say, he could entertain no doubt that in the long run and in the main it had been paid, not by the foreign consumer, but by the producer, for this reason—that the British coal which was sent to foreign markets was in active competition there with coal produced in other countries, with the result that a person in those markets could dispense with the British supply; or, in other words, that the price ruling in those markets was not regulated by, but was independent of, the export duty with which we charged our industry. He did not believe it was possible to get a better practical illustration in the whole range of fiscal experience of how, by an ill-devised duty such as this, a burden might be thrown on our own industry in markets where that industry was most exposed to the competition of foreigners. If any further arguments were needed they would be found in the fact that this tax had been unanimously condemned by a Royal Commission composed of persons of the most diverse opinions, and that, as they had been informed, it was intended to be abandoned by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer. With this consensus of argument, of experience, and of authority, it appeared to him that the Government would not be justified in maintaining the tax a moment longer.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said that notwithstanding the arguments of the Chancellor of the Exchequer he could not help regretting the determination to repeal this tax; many of them felt that more information was wanted to warrant the Committee taking this course. An hon. Member who had spoken with great spirit and eloquence early in the debate in support of the retention of the tax had called the mineowners weeping millionaires.

Mr. JOHN WILSON: I have no term like that in my vocabulary.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said it was not the hon. Member he referred to. He was speaking of an eloquent and stirring speech delivered earlier in the debate. He contended that if this tax had any effect at all it tended to preserve our supplies of coal, which were of such great importance to the Empire, and also to cheapen coal to the home consumers. Hon. Members opposite had said that the foreigner did not pay the duty and that the tax crippled and limited our own trade. What, then, became of the free trade argument that the tax fell upon the receiving and not the producing nation? That had always been the argument against the imposition of a duty upon wheat. If it was argued that the duty fell upon the people of this country, then it was clear the producer paid it and not the consumer. He felt that the decision to remit this tax was unwise, and he should support the independent Members on the Government side who pressed for its retention. He did not hope to convince hon. Members opposite, but he thought the analogy he had just used was a sound and logical one, and he should like to hear the Chancellor of the Exchequer's answer to it. He deeply regretted that the Government had decided to repeal the coal tax. He felt that it was an unwise thing for the country, and he would gladly join the independent Members who had spoken against the decision.

Mr. FELL (Great Yarmouth) said the taxpayers of the country welcomed the export tax on coal when it was imposed, because it contributed a large amount of money to the Exchequer without their feeling the tax. He was confident that no ordinary consumer of coal in the country knew when the tax was put on, or would know when it was taken off. It would not make a penny of difference to nineteen-twentieths of the people of the country. The effect of the tax had surprised two or three Chancellors of the Exchequer. [An Hon. Member: The coal exporters felt it.] The interruption did not come from a Member who could speak on behalf of the people to whom he was referring, namely, those who paid £5, £10, or £20 a year for coal. When they were considering a tax they did not go to the people interested in the trade to learn what should be done about it. Anybody on whom a tax pressed naturally wished that it should be done away with. Could the Chancellor of the Exchequer point out in any way in which £1,000,000 could be obtained more easily than by this tax? The Germans had shown their desire to secure a supply of steam coal from Wales by purchasing coal fields there. That matter had already been discussed in this House. The company, though registered as an English company, was, he believed, controlled by German capital. It was practically a German concern. Anthracite coal was greatly sought after by other nations, and no matter whether we put a duty on it or not, they must have it. More coal had been exported since the shilling duty was put on than before, and therefore the only complaint the colliery or the workers could have was that on account of the tax the exports were not so large as they otherwise would have been. He regretted that the tax had been repealed.

Mr. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had pointed out that the consumer paid the tea tax, and yet he had stated also that he took off the coal tax because of foreign competition. It had been said that the effect of the coal tax was to lower wages. It appeared to him, therefore, that all taxes levied by foreign countries on British goods which competed with an untaxed supply must have the effect of lowering British wages. He thought that the best Welsh coal, with which there was no competition, could very well bear a tax, because it would be paid by the foreigner. The other kinds, which came into competition with French and German coal, could have been exported free from the export tax.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 4:—

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill." The Committee proceeded to a Division.

Mr. Whiteley and Mr. Joseph Pease were appointed Tellers for the Ayes; but no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes, the Chairman declared that the Ayes had it.

Clauses 4 and 5 agreed to.

Clause 6:—

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) had an Amendment on the Paper—

"In page 3, line 8, after 'charged' to insert the words 'upon male persons only.'"

Mr. Fell.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Caldwell, Lanarkshire, Mid.) said that the Amendment was outside the scope of the Bill, and therefore out of order.

*Mr. HAROLD COX (Preston) said he proposed to move the reduction of the income-tax from 1s. to 11d. in the £, not, however, because he believed that, in the present state of the national finance, such a reduction was possible or desirable, but to comply with the forms of the House, and to enable himself and others to advocate such reforms as would make the tax universal and not partial in its application. His main object in advocating these reforms was that they would enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer at some future date to get rid of the taxes on tea and sugar which pressed most hardly on the poorest portion of the population. He had got figures to show what was the common consumption of tea and sugar by poor people. A labourer's family consumed weekly six pounds of sugar, and half a pound of tea, with perhaps two or three pounds of jam. What was the taxation on that?

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that the Amendment of the hon. Member on the Paper was to move the reduction of the income-tax from 1s. to 11d.; and the hon. Member must confine himself to that.

*Mr. HAROLD COX asked whether he would not be in order, in moving that Amendment, to explain why he wished the proposed reduction.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No.

*Mr. HAROLD COX said that under the present system of taxation poor people were——

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member was quite entitled to argue that the income-tax should be reduced from 1s. to 11d., but he was not entitled to enter into a discussion of questions altogether outside of that.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.) asked on a point of order whether the hon. Member for Preston would be in order in raising the point to which he desired to direct attention on the question that the Clause stand part of the Bill.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that that Question would give a wider scope to the discussion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

*Mr. HAROLD COX said that what he wanted to argue was that an income-tax should be universal, and in order to support that argument he wished to explain that under the present system of taxation the poorest people who did not pay income-tax really paid more by reason of the duties on tea and sugar in proportion to income than many who did pay income-tax. For instance, a labourer with only 15s. a week income paid through the duties on tea and sugar an income-tax at the rate of 8d. per £, whereas a man with an income of £320 a year really paid income-tax only at the rate of 7d. per £. Again, a first class artisan who earned £3 a week paid through the tea and sugar duties an income-tax of only 2d. in the £, or a fourth of the income-tax paid by the agricultural labourer. He maintained that that was an injustice which affected millions of people in the country, and a grievance which ought to be redressed.

Mr. WALSH (Lancashire, Ince), on a point of order, asked whether the hon. Member for Preston was entitled to go into the general incidence of taxation.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ruled that the reference was allowable.

Mr. HAROLD COX said he would confine himself to arguing why he was justified in saying that the income-tax should be universal. It would be unfair to exempt any incomes, however small. For example, a working man might be earning only a very small income because he preferred to work for only three days in the week. He hoped it might be possible to combine universal payment of income-tax with registration of voters for Parliamentary elections. The objection to making the income-tax universal was the cost of collection.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that the resolution before the Committee enabled the income-tax to be levied on certain specified classes, and the hon. Member was going outside that resolution in speaking of a tax upon people to whom the resolution did not apply. The hon. Member was therefore obviously out of order.

*Mr. HAROLD COX said that surely he might argue that the income-tax should be universal.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that a reference might be made to that point, but the hon. Member was not entitled to found an argument upon it at length.

*Mr. HAROLD COX said he would conclude by saying that until the tax was universal the inequalities of taxation could not be redressed, and the responsibilities of citizenship could not be brought home to the electors.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE said he understood that no Amendment had been moved.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that upon the question that Clause 6 stand part of the Bill no one could move an Amendment. No one came forward before he put that Question, and that being so an Amendment could not now be moved.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE moved to leave out Clause 6. He said the point which the hon. Member had raised was a very important one. He objected to this method of levying the income-tax upon certain persons only. He thought there would be greater economy in our spending departments if all taxes were levied directly instead of partly directly and partly indirectly as they were at the present time. He objected also to the present system of levying income-tax, on the ground that it violated that which in his opinion should be a canon of taxation, that it should be levied in proportion to the benefit obtained. A person receiving £50,000 a year should pay on a higher scale than a person receiving £1,000 a year. The tax, moreover, applied equally to men and women, and to this he also objected, as taxation and representation should go together, and women were not allowed to vote. He begged to move the omission of Clause 6.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that that did not require an Amendment, as it was purely a negative to the clause.

MR. FELL said the income-tax was really a war tax, and he objected to its being maintained at 1s. in the £ in a time of profound peace. In the war time it had gone up as high as 1s. 4d. and although it had gone down to 1s. 2d. and then to 1s. it still remained at the latter figure. He believed that the income-tax had always been regarded as the means by which this country could raise money in the event of war or other emergency. It had provided the money for the Soudan and the Abyssinian Wars, but to keep it as high as 1s. in the £ in time of peace deprived it of its elasticity. He believed it had been decided that the utmost limit of the tax was 1s. 6d. in the £, and to keep it at its present limit in time of peace was, he thought, dangerous. Mr. Gladstone gradually got the tax down to 3d. in the £, and at the Greenwich election promised if he were returned to abolish it altogether. He was not, however, returned, and so the opportunity was lost. That great financier held that in time of profound peace it was unnecessary to continue the tax, but in the present state of things we were a very long way from acting up to his maxims. It was frequently stated in the newspapers that there were only 2,600,000 income-tax payers, but that was an extraordinarily inaccurate statement, as it left out of sight the hundreds of income-tax payers whose tax was deducted before they received their dividends. He protested against the income-tax being maintained at 1s. in the £ in a time of profound peace, because it destroyed the elasticity of the tax in times of emergency.

MR. ASQUITH said he had listened with attention to the hon. Member, but he was bound to admit that even now he had not the faintest notion whether the hon. Member was going to vote for or against this Clause. If the clause were rejected he would be deprived of not less than £30,200,000 of his expected revenue in the ensuing year, or, in other words, the finances of the country would be stranded. The questions of a universal income-tax, and the excepting of women from the income-tax because they were not directly represented in the House, were subjects upon which, at the proper time, a great deal might be said; and if he did not deal with them it was not because he had not his opinions about them, but because he did not think them relevant to the question whether Clause 6 should stand part of the Bill. He looked upon the present form, manner, and imposition of the income-tax with considerable dissatisfaction. He was glad to know that the Committee appointed to consider the differentiation and graduation of the tax were collecting a volume of most interesting evidence which had not hitherto been available, and he should look forward to the conclusions of the Committee with the expectation of guidance for the future. He asked the Committee to accept the tax as it stood, but that would not preclude them from dealing with it with riper judgment in the fture.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH complained that owing to the startling rapidity with which this Motion was put from the Chair by Mr. Deputy Chairman it had been impossible for hon. Members to discuss the many questions in relation to the income-tax in which they were very much interested. He did not wish to cast any reflection whatever upon the Deputy Chairman, but he did say that when the Opposition were raising a point of order and before a decision had been given upon it they suddenly heard this Motion put to the Committee.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I am afraid that the hon. Member is reflecting a little on the Deputy Chairman now.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH said he had no desire to do that. He only desired to point out that there were some questions that they were anxious to raise on this clause which they were precluded from raising by the startling rapidity with which events had moved within the last half hour. In considering the Budget as a whole, he did not think sufficient attention had been paid to the claims of the income-tax payers, and the question which the Opposition desired to raise was whether in the surplus which the right hon. Gentleman had at his command, further consideration should not have been given by the Government to the income-tax payers. There was no doubt that the income-tax should be reduced. Of course it was absurd to suppose that they could vote against the Clause; that was simply impossible. Everyone knew that the Chancellor of the Exchequer must have the money, that it was necessary that a large portion of the money should be raised by means of the income-tax; but the point they were anxious to deal with was the distribution of the surplus in the hands of the right hon. Gentleman, their view being that he ought to have given further consideration to the claims of the income-tax payers.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give consideration to the case of the professional classes, such as doctors and solicitors in a small way of business, and country clergymen, whose salaries ranged from £300 to £900, and on whom the income-tax bore very harshly. He urged that the joint income of a married couple, where it ranged between £300 and £800, should be treated for the purposes of exemption as the income of two people and not as the income of one person, as at present, and that incomes derived from the Colonies should not be taxed here as well as in the Colonies. He understood that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was anxious, when the opportunity occurred, to lighten the incidence of the income-tax upon business people, and he would, therefore, not press the point beyond saying that at present it militated against business enterprise at every turn.

*MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.) said it had not been his intention to intervene in this debate, but there were one or two remarks which had been made to which he felt it incumbent upon him to reply. It had been said that a 1s. income-tax in a time of profound peace was too large, and he submitted that this proposition did not bear examination. What were the facts of the case? The income-tax payers of this country were not a large number, and fully three-fourths of them did not pay anything like 1s. in the £ income-tax. Up to £700 per annum income-tax ranged from 1d. in the £ up to 1s. Yet they were told that this burden was an intolerable one. And what became of the principle of graduation if graduation had to be effected within such small limits? In Prussia the income-tax began at incomes of £45 per annum, which might be compared with incomes of £90 in this country and was graduated up to incomes of £5,000 a year. In Prussia an income amounting to some thousands a year would pay a direct income-tax of 4 per cent., a supplementary income-tax of 1¼ per cent., in addition to which dividends on investments were taxed at their source, which in some cases amounted practically to double taxation. In Saxony dividends were taxed twice, first at the source and then directly. If they laid down the proposition that a 1s. income-tax was an intolerable thing in time of peace, they might as well shut up their Committee upstairs and give up all idea of graduation. He believed that they could well graduate the income-tax from 2d. up to 2s. in time of peace, and in time of war they could then impose a higher or patriotic tax, although, for himself, he would rather apply the term "patriotic" to peace than to war taxes. In conclusion he submitted that the income-tax should be graduated with due regard to the distribution of the wealth of the nation.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 7 and 8 added to the Bill.

of taxation, that it should be levied in proportion to the benefit obtained. A person receiving £50,000 a year should pay on a higher scale than a person receiving £1,000 a year. The tax, moreover, applied equally to men and women, and to this he also objected, as taxation and representation should go together, and women were not allowed to vote. He begged to move the omission of Clause 6.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that that did not require an Amendment, as it was purely a negative to the clause.

MR. FELL said the income-tax was really a war tax, and he objected to its being maintained at 1s. in the £ in a time of profound peace. In the war time it had gone up as high as 1s. 4d. and although it had gone down to 1s. 2d. and then to 1s. it still remained at the latter figure. He believed that the income-tax had always been regarded as the means by which this country could raise money in the event of war or other emergency. It had provided the money for the Soudan and the Abyssinian Wars, but to keep it as high as 1s. in the £ in time of peace deprived it of its elasticity. He believed it had been decided that the utmost limit of the tax was 1s. 6d. in the £, and to keep it at its present limit in time of peace was, he thought, dangerous. Mr. Gladstone gradually got the tax down to 3d. in the £, and at the Greenwich election promised if he were returned to abolish it altogether. He was not, however, returned, and so the opportunity was lost. That great financier held that in time of profound peace it was unnecessary to continue the tax, but in the present state of things we were a very long way from acting up to his maxims. It was frequently stated in the newspapers that there were only 2,600,000 income-tax payers, but that was an extraordinarily inaccurate statement, as it left out of sight the hundreds of income-tax payers whose tax was deducted before they received their dividends. He protested against the income-tax being maintained at 1s. in the £ in a time of profound peace, because it destroyed the elasticity of the tax in times of emergency.

MR. ASQUITH said he had listened with attention to the hon. Member, but he was bound to admit that even now he had not the faintest notion whether the hon. Member was going to vote for or against this Clause. If the clause were rejected he would be deprived of not less than £30,200,000 of his expected revenue in the ensuing year, or, in other words, the finances of the country would be stranded. The questions of a universal income-tax, and the excepting of women from the income-tax because they were not directly represented in the House, were subjects upon which, at the proper time, a great deal might be said; and if he did not deal with them it was not because he had not his opinions about them, but because he did not think them relevant to the question whether Clause 6 should stand part of the Bill. He looked upon the present form, manner, and imposition of the income-tax with considerable dissatisfaction. He was glad to know that the Committee appointed to consider the differentiation and graduation of the tax were collecting a volume of most interesting evidence which had not hitherto been available, and he should look forward to the conclusions of the Committee with the expectation of guidance for the future. He asked the Committee to accept the tax as it stood, but that would not preclude them from dealing with it with riper judgment in the fture.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH complained that owing to the startling rapidity with which this Motion was put from the Chair by Mr. Deputy Chairman it had been impossible for hon. Members to discuss the many questions in relation to the income-tax in which they were very much interested. He did not wish to cast any reflection whatever upon the Deputy Chairman, but he did say that when the Opposition were raising a point of order and before a decision had been given upon it they suddenly heard this Motion put to the Committee.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I am afraid that the hon. Member is reflecting a little on the Deputy Chairman now.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH said he had no desire to do that. He only desired to point out that there were some questions that they were anxious to raise on this clause which they were precluded from raising by the startling rapidity with which events had moved within the last half hour. In considering the Budget as a whole, he did not think sufficient attention had been paid to the claims of the income-tax payers, and the question which the Opposition desired to raise was whether in the surplus which the right hon. Gentleman had at his command, further consideration should not have been given by the Government to the income-tax payers. There was no doubt that the income-tax should be reduced. Of course it was absurd to suppose that they could vote against the Clause; that was simply impossible. Everyone knew that the Chancellor of the Exchequer must have the money, that it was necessary that a large portion of the money should be raised by means of the income-tax; but the point they were anxious to deal with was the distribution of the surplus in the hands of the right hon. Gentleman, their view being that he ought to have given further consideration to the claims of the income-tax payers.

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Clause agreed to.

Clauses 7 and 8 added to the Bill.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) moved to add the following new clause—

"The excess duty of 15s. for every hackney carriage, as defined in Clause 4 of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act of 1888, shall be and is hereby repealed."

Members of the Committee were not, perhaps, aware of the very heavy charges upon the owners, and consequently upon the drivers, of hackney carriages. For the plate bearing the number of the cab the owner had to pay £2 to the Home Office. The cabdriver bore on his breast a medal for which he had to pay 5s. to the Home Office, and the Department a short time ago tried to raise the amount to 7s. 6d. In addition, the driver had to pay a licence of 15s. a year to the Inland Revenue. Few people had so heavy a charge placed upon their industry, and there were hardly any other people engaged in trade who were so completely under public control and so completely tied and bound with restrictions. He was aware that a large portion of the money raised by these licences came from companies, but those who deserved their consideration most were the small owners with one or two cabs, who were being rapidly driven out of existence by the taxes and other difficulties with which they had to cope. In this matter there was something to be learnt from Ireland, as was the case in many other matters. In Ireland the owner of a car had to pay no licence at all, and he did not know whether they could attribute the proverbial hilarity and light-heartedness of the Irish cab-driver to the fact that he was not bound down, as was the English cab-driver, by oppressive taxation. It was a sign that a tax ought to be taken off when the revenue from it was beginning to decline. The last year for which the Inland Revenue return gave figures showed a falling off of 2,000 licences from the previous year and the year before. The amount received from these licences was £98,600, but he should think a considerable part of that sum must be spent in the collection of the duty. Therefore, in view of that, and of the fact that the number of licences was diminishing, it was a very good time to consider the desirability of abolishing the tax altogether. It was true that the produce of the tax went to the Local Taxation Account, and objection might be taken to his proposal on the ground that ratepayers would be deprived of some advantages. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer had something like £400,000 for contingencies, and out of that he might recoup the local ratepayers for what they would lose by the withdrawal of the hackney carriage licences. There was no taint of protection in his proposal. No question could be raised as to whether the producer or the consumer paid the licence. The cab-driver, compared with other trades, seemed to be very hardly treated. Tradesmen's carts and vans were not liable to the tax, nor were the drivers required to learn how to drive as were cab-drivers. If to tax a grocer's cart was wrong because it would interfere with his trade, it was still more wrong to tax a cab-driver, because his cab was the whole of his trade. He appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to relieve this class of this unjust burden, and perhaps he could see his way to make good the loss to localities by a grant out of the fund reserved by the Treasury for contingencies.

New clause—

"The excise duty of 15s. for every hackney carriage, as defined in Clause 4 of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act of 1888, shall be and is hereby repealed."

Question proposed, "That this clause be read now a second time."

Mr. ASQUITH said he had considerable sympathy with the proposal. The tax upon coaches and carriages of pleasure was a very old tax, and was unundoubtedly intended as a very legitimate form of sumptuary tax. But it did not originally apply to hackney carriages; it was extended to them in a bad time, under Lord North's Administration, in order to help to meet the expenses of the American War. The carriages to which the hon. Member referred were really instruments by which a business was carried on, and, being a tax on locomotion, in his opinion, erred against sound fiscal principles. He must ask the hon. Gentleman to be content with that expression of sympathy, however, as the tax was one of those which under our present system of finance was handed over to the local authorities, the Imperial revenue deriving no benefit of any sort or kind from it. The only effect of adopting the clause would be to deprive the local authorities of a source of revenue for the next twelve months, an arrangement of which they would no doubt complain very much. He suggested that the matter should be deferred, and he would give it his careful consideration when they took up the question of the general relation between local and Imperial taxation under the present system. He assured the hon. Gentleman that when they got all the taxes where they ought to be he should be most ready to accede to his wishes and remit this tax on hackney carriages.

MR. BRIDGEMAN said that after the sympathetic speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer he did not feel that he ought to press his Motion to a division. He thought, however, that the right hon. Gentleman had postponed their hopes on this question to rather a distant and uncertain period. He would ask leave to withdraw his Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time upon Monday, June 11th.

INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

THE UNDER - SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. JOHN ELLIS, Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe), in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, explained that it was a measure practically of one clause, and was absolutely uncontroversial in character. Its object was to render needless the inclusion of the Act of 1894 in the Expiring Laws Bill. That Act gave power under certain conditions to pay interest out of capital during construction. It had worked well for twelve years. The Bill he was now moving would facilitate the development of railways in India, a matter which had a very close connection with the economic welfare of our fellow-subjects there. He hoped the House would give the Bill a Second Reading now.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this Bill be now read a second time."

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN (Birmingham, W.) asked whether the Bill had the approval of the India Council and of the Government of India.

MR. JOHN ELLIS replied in the affirmative.

Question put, and agreed to.

METROPOLITAN POLICE (COMMISSION) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) said that among the powers to be exercised by the Commissioners was that of issuing a warrant of committal to prison "signed by one or more of the Commissioners" for a period not exceeding three months. He did not think that it was right, say, for Mr. Alfred Lyttelton or Mr. Whitmore acting individually to be given the power to commit any person for contempt of Court, and he would like an explanation from the Home Secretary as to the working of the clause. He thought the power should be committed to three Commissioners acting together. He wished to know whether the clause was drafted in a technical form customary in measures of this character.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) pointed out that the clause strictly followed precedent, as, for example, in the procedure of the South African War Stores Commission.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN said it was unusual to find the Member of the Government responsible for such a Bill absent when it came up for discussion. He understood the Home Secretary to say that the Commission would have ordinary powers, except the power to give an indemnity to witnesses. He did not see this stated in the Bill, and he wanted to know the reason of the deviation from the usual practice.

Sir W. ROBSON explained that the Home Secretary was absent unexpectedly, because the earlier business had been disposed of sooner than had been anticipated. There were reasons why a witness should not be entitled as a right to a certificate of indemnity. The charges made in this case were of a serious character, involving not only the persons whose names had been lately before the public, but officers of justice and other individuals against whom subsequent proceedings might be taken if necessary.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN thought that the reply given was an extraordinary one. An indemnity was given to a person whom otherwise it might be desirable to prosecute, but it had been thought more desirable to allow a guilty person to escape than that the truth should not be known. In order, therefore, to secure the disclosure of the truth the House had agreed in many similar cases to give an indemnity to a guilty person in order that he should make a clean breast of the facts known to him. The present instance seemed to him to be a case where they wanted to get at the real truth, and where they should pursue the ordinary methods precedent had marked out. In the absence of the Home Secretary he did not see how it was possible for the Committee to proceed with the Bill, and therefore he moved to report progress. He submitted that argument with confidence, because the Bill concerned the honour not only of private persons, but of the force which it was the duty of this House to protect. He trusted that the House would not allow the aspersions which had been cast upon various persons to remain without due inquiry, and therefore that the motion would be accepted.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. J. Chamberlain.*)

Captain CRAIG said that when the Bill come up for Second Reading he withdrew the objection he had to it on the understanding that the Minister in charge of the measure, which was in one respect non-contentious, would give full explanation of its clauses. That Minister was now absent, and he held that progress should be reported.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that the hon. and learned Gentleman had done all that possibly could be expected of him in his improvised defence of the Bill. But he did not think it was in consonance with the practice of the House that they should pass an important stage of a Bill exciting so much interest without the Minister in charge of the Bill being present. He was anxious that the Bill should pass. He believed that the police desired it, and that the result would be to clear them from the aspersions cast upon them in regard to the discharge of their duties. But, after all, the point raised by his right hon. friend was one of substance, viz., that they should not have discussions of a Bill without the Minister in charge of it being present. The acceptance of the Motion would make very little difference to the prospects of the Bill, as it could not pass before Whitsuntide; and he should certainly resist to the utmost of his power the passage of this or any other Bill before the Motion for the adjournment. There was not a single Cabinet Minister on the Treasury bench. [Ministerial ironical cheers, during which the Postmaster-General came in.] He had not seen the right hon. Gentleman before and he apologised. He thought that the right hon. Gentleman would feel with the Opposition that they required some guidance in this House. That had never been the way of conducting the business of this House. [Ministerial cries of "Oh, oh."] He was sorry he could not identify the hon. gentleman who said "Oh," but he asked was he in the last Parliament, or in any other Parliament before ?

Mr. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire) said that he was a Member of the last Parliament, and he would recall the right hon. Gentleman's attention to the occasion when he moved a Resolution on the Fiscal question, and the whole of the then occupants of the Treasury Bench left the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that that was a most happy illustration of the hon. Member's knowledge of Parliamentary business. The complaint now was that the Minister in charge of a Bill was not here to conduct it through Committee. The complaint of the hon. Member was that when a Motion was brought forward by a private Member the debate upon it was not listened to by those who he thought ought to listen to it. The question that the Minister in charge of a Bill should be present during its discussion in Committee was one of very substantial importance, and the only thing in his opinion was to adjourn this discussion.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Herbert Samuel, Yorkshire, Cleveland) said that his name was on the back of the Bill, and he was surprised that the right hon. Gentleman, the Leader of the Opposition, should have thought fit to throw unnecessary delays in the way of passing a Bill of this character. If delay was not the object of this Motion for reporting progress he did not know what was the object. A number of reflections had been made upon members of the public service and the sooner they were cleared up the better. It was essential that the Bill should pass with the least possible delay. The Home Secretary was absent partly because it was not expected the Bill would be reached, and partly because the Bill had never been regarded as controversial. A wholly artificial point had now been raised on a question with regard to indemnity to witnesses, to which the Solicitor-General had given a complete and satisfactory reply. If the Home Secretary had been there he would have given the explanation in exactly the same words. It was, he held, undesirable to report progress at this stage.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said that even if they went on with the Committee stage that evening it would be impossible to pass the Bill before the Whitsuntide holidays, and therefore if progress was reported there would be no unnecessary delay. There were two questions of great importance which required the attendance of the Minister in charge of the Bill, viz., the conferring of the powers of the High Court upon the Commissioners and the question of the very important and drastic powers which were conferred upon them. He thought it essential that the Minister in charge of the Bill should be present to deal with the questions raised.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid) said the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham and the ex-Prime Minister had achieved their object. They had been delaying a Bill to the passing of which they pretended to be favourable. This was the Committee stage of the Bill, and if there was any point the right hon. Gentlemen thought of importance, notice of an Amendment could have been put on the Notice Paper. If there had been notice of any such Amendment the Home Secretary would have been in his place. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham and the ex-Prime Minister had taken this method by a mere hollow pretence.

Mr. STUART WORTLEY: Mr. Emmott, is there not a rule of the House which prohibits the imputation of motives ?

The CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member's words were a little strong.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS said he would withdraw the word "hollow" and say it was a "mere pretence." There was nothing on the Paper to show that this matter would be brought forward, and therefore the Home Secretary was not present.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it was not for him to say whether the modification of the imputation of motive by the hon. and learned Gentleman was or was not in the spirit of the Chairman's ruling. It was not for him to judge, and he did not pretend to judge. The hon. and learned Gentleman had suggested that the conduct of his right hon. friend and himself and the pretence, not the hollow pretence, of which they had been guilty in dealing with this particular crisis was based upon some desire to prevent the Bill passing into law. That was absolutely false.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: I suppose the right hon. Gentleman means "inaccurate."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he desired that the Bill should pass into law, but he thought that there were points which were worth discussing on the Committee stage, and that the point raised by his right hon. friend was one of them. He had learned for the first time that a Minister in charge of a Bill need not be in attendance unless there was an Amendment on the Paper directing his attention to his own Bill. On the Committee stage of a Bill that was, he believed, new, and he did not know that it was the principle which the hon. and learned Gentleman advocated when in opposition. He had yet to learn that what every Member of this House supposed to be the practice was wrong. He had yet to learn that it was not competent and proper to raise points which had not been put formally on the Paper as Amendments and discuss them. The hon. and learned Gentleman was one of those who poured in Amendments without notice during some of the long-contested nights in which the hon. and learned Gentleman and himself on opposite sides of the House to their equal dissatisfaction took part in the late Parliament.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: Not on my part.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought the hon. and learned Gentleman would admit that an Amendment moved without notice was not an unfamiliar method, and it was certainly a most proper method of proceeding in this House. For the hon. and learned Gentleman to get up and suggest that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had been guilty of delaying this matter by means of a pretence showed that he was either totally ignorant or had utterly forgotten the traditional methods by which business was conducted in this House. He was convinced that there was not a man on the Treasury Bench who would get up and defend the proposition of the hon. and learned Gentleman that it was unnecessary, unless an Amendment was put down upon the Paper, for a Minister to be in his place to support his own Bill.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey): Although there was no distinct agreement with the front bench on that side of the House——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Was there any agreement?

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY: May I be allowed to finish my sentence? Although there was no distinct agreement with Members on that side of the House that this Bill should be regarded as a non-contentious measure, there was a general understanding throughout the whole House that it should be regarded as non-contentious, and be passed as soon as possible, in order to set this Commission to work. The action of the right hon. Gentleman is, in my judgment, a breach of that understanding.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I believe I have had a longer experience than any man now listening to me of the manner in which the business of this House is conducted. Never have I heard a responsible Minister get up and claim that what he calls a general understanding, never made with any responsible individual, is a thing with regard to which a breach of pledge can be made. No man in this House has more difficult duties to discharge than the hon. Gentleman who has just made the charge——

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I must stop this. The Motion is to report progress. Both the hon. Gentleman and the right hon. Gentleman must confine themselves to that matter.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: On a point of order, Sir, may I ask you whether, having been charged with a breach of faith, I am not permitted to reply to that charge?

The CHAIRMAN: The right hon. Gentleman was charged with a breach of an understanding. I understood him to have repudiated any agreement, and therefore I considered that the matter was at an end.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 47; Noes, 244. (Division List No. 106.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, RtHn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonprt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Billson, Alfred
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff.)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Clough, W.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)

Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Hardie J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (SomersetN
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal,E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncastr
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Parker, James (Hailfax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,Rt. Hn.E. (Dundee)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H. (Ashton underLyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Spicer, Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P.(Salisbury)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson,J.W.H. (Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
White, George (Norfolk)
White J. D. (Dumbartons hire)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williamson,A.(Elgin and Nairn
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse,Lord(Norfolk,Mid)
Woodhouse,Sir J.T.(Huddersfd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Original Question again proposed.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, and objection being taken to further Proceeding, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

Ajdourned at a quarter after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 30th May, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill. As amended, considered; clauses added; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [Lords]; Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill (by Order). As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Private Bills, etc. Ordered, That Standing Orders 39, 128, and 230 be suspended, and that the time for depositing Petitions and Memorials against Private Bills, or against any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, and for depositing duplicates of any Documents relating to any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, also for depositing at the Private Bill Office all Documents relating to any Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the recess.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Thursday, June 7th.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill (by Order). Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill (by Order). Read the third time, and passed.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Brixham, Newlyn, and Torquay," presented by Mr. Kearley; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 242.]

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Loch Claish (Loch Inchard) and Dunoon," presented by Mr. Kearley; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 243.]

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Burnham (Somerset)," presented by Mr. Kearley; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 244.]

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Lincoln and Uttoxeter," presented by Mr. Runciman; supported by Mr. John Burns; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 245.]

South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company Bill, Petition for additional Provision; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS.

Petition from Forfarshire, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

MARINE INSURANCE BILL [LORDS].

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; from Bermondsey; Bewdley; Cricklade; Darlington (two); Hythe (two); Malvern; Oxford; Rutland; Sowerby; Stalybridge; Swindon; and, Uppingham; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, against; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Thirsk, against; to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA AND CHINA (OPIUM TRAFFIC).

Petitions for suppression; from Cardiff (twenty-eight); Corstorphine; Edinburgh; and, Penarth (three); to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Hatford, against; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Aylesbury; and, Old Park (eight); to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Blackburne; Haxby; Hengoed; Kingston-on-Thames; Lamport and Hanging Houghton cum Faxton (two); Little Munden; Llangwyryfon (two); Llantilio Pertholey; Louth (two); Manchester (two); Preston (Rutland) (three); Stocking Pelham; Ulceby with Fordington; West Sussex; and, Whatton in the Vale; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Brymbo, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS BILL.

Petition of the Trade Protection Societies Association of the United Kingdom, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Copy presented, of Report by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons, under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, that they are of opinion that the Buckhaven, Methill, and Innerleven Burgh Extension Order and the North British Railway Order ought to be dealt with by private Bill and not by Provisional Order [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 185].

TREATY SERIES (No. 7, 1906).

Copy presented of Treaty between the United Kingdom and Nicaragua for the mutual Extradition of Fugitive Criminals. Signed at Managua, April 19th, 1905. Ratifications exchanged at London, February 13th, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Regulations of the Board of Education providing for Special Grants-in-Aid of certain Local Education Authorities in England and Wales [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).

Copy presented, of Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Peru for the exchange of Money Orders dated December 25th, October 22nd, 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).

Copy presented of Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of the Dutch East Indies for the exchange of Money Orders, dated March 30th, June 3rd, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

1. Supreme Court (Rules), Copy of Rules of the Supreme Court, dated May 25th, 1906 [by Act].

2. Medway Conservancy, Copy of Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of the Conservators for the year ending March 25th, 1906 [by Act].

PERPETUAL PENSIONS, ETC.

Copy ordered, "of Treasury Minute, dated May 25th, 1906, on the subject of commuting the Annual Payment of £62 9s. 8d. charged upon the Consolidated Fund as compensation to Mr. R. Harrison, Officer of the Pipe" [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.—(*Mr. McKenna.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 186.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Indian Coolie Labour for the Transvaal.

MR. COX (Preston): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India is willing to sanction the recruiting of Indian coolies for work in the Transvaal, either on the railways, or on the farms, or in the mines, upon the terms of the British Guiana Ordinance.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) No application for Indian coolies has been addressed to the Government of India by or on behalf of the Transvaal Government, and I cannot at present say whether, if such an application were made, the Government of India would be willing to agree to it on the terms mentioned in the Question.

Training of Teachers in Scotland.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): To ask the Secretary for Scotland, if he will lay upon the Table before Whitsuntide the promised Minute with reference to the training of teachers in Scotland, so that members may have the opportunity of consulting their constituents about it during the recess, in anticipation of the discussion of the Scottish Estimates on 14th June.

(*Answered by Mr Sinclair.*) The Minute will be laid upon the Table upon the re-assembling of Parliament after Whitsuntide.

Building Loans, Granted by the Congested Districts Board.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland, if he will state whether the persons to whom the Congested Districts Board have granted loans for the purposes of building houses are crofters under the Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The persons are crofters in some, in others they are feuars, or persons in process of becoming proprietors.

Admiralty Examiners for Osborne Cadetships.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, if he will state the names of the Gentlemen of the Admiralty Board who select, by oral examination, candidates for training at the Royal Naval College, Osborne, for cadetships; and will he state the qualifications of these Gentlemen for the examination work which they thus undertake; will he state the number of youths who have presented themselves for the oral examinations, and how many of that number were selected by the Admiralty Board after these examinations.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The hon. Member apparently refers to the Interview Committee appointed before each qualifying examination to interview and report on the various candidates. This Committee always includes a distinguished naval officer and an experienced schoolmaster. A new Committee is appointed each time, and the names are not published in advance, but the hon. Member will find in Parliamentary Papers [Cd. 1962] of 1904, and [Cd. 2450], of 1905, the names of the first six Committees appointed and a full account of their proceedings.

Escape from Submarines in cases of Accidents.

Sir JOHN KENNAWAY (Devonshire, Honiton): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether any invention for means of escape from submarine vesssls in case of accident has been discovered; and, if so, have the submarines been fitted with it since the lamentable accident of last year where several of the crew were drowned.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) No reliable means of escape from submarine boats, under all conditions of submergence caused by accident, are known which it would be practicable to introduce into vessels designed for warlike purposes. Arrangements exist in submarines of A Class and later boats which would permit of the escape of the crew from a boat sunk in shallow water, provided the men were not incapacitated from other causes, and these arrangements existed in A 8 at the time of the accident last year.

Examination for Assistant Factory Inspectors.

Mr. WILKIE (Dundee): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the next examination for assistant factory inspectors will take place.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The next examination for factory inspectors' assistants will, I expect, be held in the month of July.

Omnibus Tickets and Newspaper Prizes.

Mr. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the danger to the public morality, he will consider the question of the illegality or otherwise of the practice adopted by certain newspapers of offering rewards for special omnibus and tram tickets; and whether he will instruct the police to put a stop to the habit which has grown up on the part of boys and young persons of waylaying passengers in order to obtain these tickets.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I regret the practice of the newspapers referred to, as it seems to me to be a part of a widespread and increasing tendency which I cannot but regard as contrary to the public interest, but I am not able to say definitely whether it is contrary to the law, as this point is at present under consideration. As regards the second part of the Question, if the boys cause obstruction they will be dealt with by the police on the spot.

Religious Teaching in Provided Schools.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): To ask the President of the Board of Education, when the Return promised in another place as to the religious teaching in provided schools will be presented; and whether any partial Return of the nature promised can be made.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I fear that the complete Return can hardly be ready for some time to come; but I am arranging to lay an instalment of it upon the Table at once, and to issue the remainder, by instalment or otherwise, with the least possible delay.

Windmill Farm, Robinson Estate, County Westmeath.

Mr. SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state under what circumstance an evicted farm called the Windmill Farm, on the Robinson estate, near Streamstown, County Westmeath, was sold by the Estates Commissioners to a man named Jeeves, who held no land before he acquired this farm, nor did he live in the locality of the evicted farm; will he say what were the reasons which induced the Commissioners to take this course; why was the land not divided amongst the poorer and smaller farmers in the neighbourhood of the farm, in view of the intention of the Land Act of 1903; and whether, if the sale of this farm is not finally concluded, he will ask the Estates Commissioners to distribute the land between the poorer tenants around Windmill.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they did not sell the farm in question, or any portion of it, to any person named Jeeves. The larger portion of this farm was sold by the Commissioners to the widow of the evicted tenant, a small portion to an occupier named Daly, and the balance to a judicial tenant named Moore. The Commissioners have no knowledge of any man named Jeeves in connection with the case.

Unsanitary Building Sites in Belfast.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Bretland, formerly engineer to the Belfast Town Council, and Mr. Munce, the assistant engineer, condemned certain sites used for building purposes in Belfast as unsanitary and a danger to the health of the people; and, if in view of these facts, he will communicate with the Local Government Board with the view of having further inquiry made into the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Local Government Board have no knowledge whether the facts are as stated in the first part of the Question. I informed the hon. Member on Friday last † that the general suitability of building sites is a matter for the decision of the corporation. The Local Government Board have no functions except when a site is acquired by the corporation for the housing of the working classes, in which case a local inquiry is held before a loan is sanctioned.

Irish Board of Works Clothing Contracts and the Fair Wages Resolution.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a clothing contract is under consideration by the Board of Works for some time past; whether he will make inquiry and take precautions so as to prevent this contract being given to any firm which does not carry out the Fair Wages Resolution, but mainly employs women in contravention thereto; and whether he will arrange that this contract will be carried out by men and not by factory labour.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) A small contract for clothing for about a score of park constables, gatekeepers, &c., is under consideration, and full inquiry is being made, and precautions will be taken to secure that the contract shall only be given to a firm which carries out the Fair Wages Resolution.

Rathmines Election Clerks—Electioneering.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the persons employed by the clerk of the urban district of Rathmines and Rathgar to perform the duties in connection with elections of councillors for the urban district of Rathmines and Rathgar, are the accountant, engineers, sanitary, and other officials of the said urban district; whether, seeing that these officials are withdrawn from their ordinary duties for which they are paid out of the rates of the urban district, any surcharge has been made in respect of same; whether it is customary for these officials to canvass electors on behalf of the outgoing councillors; and whether, seeing that the corporation of Dublin, and other public bodies, prohibit their officials from taking any active part in elections under the Local Government Act, and in view of the desirability of future elections of councillors for the urban district of Rathmines and Rathgar being conducted in an independent manner, he will cause an order to be issued by the Local Government Board prohibiting the employment of these officials in any capacity connected with the elections.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Local Government Board have no information as to the persons employed by the clerk of the urban district of Rathmines and Rathgar, or by the town clerk of Dublin, to assist in the conduct of Local Government elections, nor have they any information as to the alleged practice of canvassing by officials. The Board are not aware that any surcharge has been made in the matter. They have no authority to issue an order restricting the powers of returning officers in the manner suggested in the Question.

Teaching of Erse.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether in view of the Resolution passed by the House in favour of putting the study of Erse on the same footing as that of Latin, French, and German in the Irish Intermediate Examinations, he will place in the library of the House copies of the Erse classics which are used for the purpose of instruction (with translations if possible), and copies of the text books used in connection with intermediate examinations.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 1563.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Assistant Commissioners of Intermediate Education inform me that they will furnish copies of the books in Irish prescribed for the examinations of 1906, with translations if possible; and I have no objection to show these books to the right hon. Gentleman or, if it is desired, to place them in the library of the House.

Newry Electoral Division Rating.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the Resolution of the Newry Union urging that electoral division rating should be established instead of union rating; and whether this matter has engaged the attention of the Local Government Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Local Government Board have received the Resolution referred to. The Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898 established union rating for Poor Law purposes instead of electoral division rating, and the Board are not aware of any facts tending to recommend a reversion to the old system.

Superannuation of Mrs. Margaret McDonnell, late of Rathkeale Workhouse.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mrs. Margaret McDonnell, schoolmistress in the Rathkeale Workhouse, tendered her resignation after forty-two years service with an application for superannuation; that the workhouse school is under the Board of National Education, whose inspectors examine the children as in the national schools, but that the Board decline to superannuate her; and whether, under the circumstances, he will take steps to see that it does so.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The fact is as stated in the first part of the Question. Mrs. McDonnell is entitled to a pension of £60 per annum, which is chargeable on union funds in pursuance of Section 118 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. The Board of Guardians have applied to the Commissioners of National Education to grant a pension to Mrs. McDonnell, but the Commissioners have no power to do so. Teachers of workhouse national schools receive no remuneration whatever from the funds for national education, and are therefore ineligible for pensions under the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1879.

Pauperism (Ireland) Return.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will grant the Return relating to pauperism (Ireland) appearing on this day's Notices, and similar to the monthly Returns issued for England and Wales.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The preparation of the Return asked for in the Question would greatly add to the duties, already heavy, of the clerks of local Poor Law authorities and of the Local Government Board, and would not, in the opinion of the Board, be of a practical value commensurate with that labour. The information desired can practically be obtained from the Annual Report of the Board.

Charge for Post Boxes at Johannesburg.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can give the House any information as to the reason for doubling the charge for post boxes at the post office Johannesburg.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I cannot; but inquiry will be made.

Slavery in the East African Protectorate.

COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what steps are being taken to carry out the assurances that have been given as to extending the policy of the abolition of the legal status of slavery to the ten mile coast strip of the East African Protectorate; whether they are aware of the decision of the Provincial Court of Mombasa of 25th April, 1898, whereby it was laid down that all slaves imported into the coast territories since the decree of 18th April, 1876, were illegally held in bondage; and whether a large proportion of the slaves now held in the territory have been imported since 1876.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The buying and selling of slaves in this strip of territory has been prohibited since 1890, and all persons born in it since 1900 have been born free; with the result that, as appears from a Report received from the late Sir Donald Stewart, slavery has become almost nominal, and is dying out. The Secretary of State has heard of the decision of the Mombasa Court to which the hon. and gallant Member draws attention. He is not aware that any slaves are held in contravention of it; but he will make inquiry of the Commissioner on the subject.

Special Police Courts for Children's Cases.

MR. H. J. TENNANT (Berwickshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is in a position to give the House any detailed information on the separate treatment of children's cases in courts of summary jurisdiction.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Yes. I have now received information from the Metropolitan police courts, the county boroughs, and some of the more populous petty sessional divisions. The Metropolitan police magistrates are unanimous in the opinion that the working of the Home Office regulations for keeping children's cases separate from others is quite satisfactory. From the information before me I find that the regulations suggested by the Home Office or others similar to them are in force in thirteen of the county boroughs, namely: Blackburn, Cardiff, Devonport, Hull, Liverpool, Newport, Norwich, Portsmouth, Preston, Reading, South Shields, Tynemouth, and West Ham. In sixteen other county boroughs charges against children are heard before others, and it appears that care is taken to keep children apart. The names of these are: Birkenhead, Bournemouth, Bristol, Burton-on-Trent, Gloucester, Grimsby, Leeds, Newcastle, Northampton, Oldham, Plymouth, Rochdale, St. Helen's, Salford, Sheffield, and West Bromwich; in nine county boroughs children's cases are taken at the end of other business, and the children are kept in a separate room till their cases are reached; the names are: Dudley, Hanley, Leicester, Oxford, Stockton, Swansea, Wigan, Worcester, Yarmouth; in eleven county boroughs separate courts are at present or soon will be in use for children's cases; the names are: Bath, Birmingham, Bolton, Bradford, Bury, Canterbury, Halifax. Hull, Lincoln, Manchester, Walsall, while at Burnley it is sometimes found possible to form a second court. In other county boroughs it appears that precautions are already taken or that arrangements will shortly be completed for securing the separation of children's cases. At Barrow-in-Furness, for instance, plans for new courts, which would include a separate children's court, have been drawn up, but cannot be carried out at present in view of the other expenditure to which the borough is committed. In the meantime children's cases are taken either at the beginning or at the end of the other business, and children are kept out of court except when their cases are being heard. The replies to inquiries made in certain petty sessional divisions show that the regulations suggested by the Home Office are being carried out entirely or in effect. At Tottenham there is a second court which is used for children's cases.

Accidents caused by Motor Omnibuses.

MR. S. COLLINS (Lambeth, Kennington): To ask the Secretary for the Home Department, in view of the fatal accidents which occurred in the Walworth Road to William Warren Rider on May 2nd, who was killed by a motor omnibus, to Frederick Hill on May 3rd, to Leonard Boot, and also to Mrs. Harrison, who was severely injured and has since died, he proposes to take any steps to better secure the safety of the public.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I am informed that in one of the cases mentioned the man, who was a motor driver, was killed through missing his footing while endeavouring to mount the seat of a motor-bus which was in motion; and that in another case a man slipped and fell into the roadway while attempting to enter a tramcar in motion, and before he could recover himself was run over by a motor-bus which was following the tramcar. I have not been able to obtain particulars of the other accidents. The police will not fail to take action where there is reckless driving or other infringement of the law, but in the cases I have referred to there seems to have been no blame attaching to the drivers.

Newmarket Post Office.

MR. G. A. HARDY (Suffolk, Stowmarket): To ask the Postmaster-General, why the Newmarket post office is registered as a Cambridgeshire office, when the whole of Newmarket for administrative purposes is in Suffolk; and which county benefits in its county rate from the revenue derived from the Newmarket office.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) So far as the Post Office is concerned, Newmarket, like all other head offices, is not registered under any county. The Post Office revenue is paid into the Exchequer. The revenue derived from licences sold by the department on behalf of the Inland Revenue is paid to the Inland Revenue Department.

Emigration Notices in Post Offices.

MR. A. ROCHE (Cork): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that in the public lobby in the General Post Office, Cork, a poster is displayed setting forth the alleged attractions of Canada and other Colonies, for intending emigrants; will he say if this publication is allowed with the sanction of the postal authorities; and, seeing that all classes of earnest Irishmen are engaged in an endeavour to limit the tide of emigration, will he issue instructions immediately that posters of this kind, which often contain misleading statements, shall be removed from the Irish post offices.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Notices of the kind referred to have been exhibited at all post offices for many years at the request of the Colonial Office, to whom any complaint in regard to the statements therein contained should be addressed.

Postal Facilities at Chedworth, Gloucestershire.

MR. ESSEX (Gloucestershire, Cirencester): To ask the Postmaster-General, whether he has been able to arrange for better postal facilities for Chedworth in Gloucestershire.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have not yet been able to improve the postal service at Chedworth by using the railway as the hon. Member has suggested, but I am in communication with the railway company on the subject.

Imperial Service Medal for C. Seward.

CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): To ask the Postmaster-General whether any reason exists for C. Seward, late of parcel post office, Paddington, not receiving His Majesty's Imperial Service Medal; and, if so, what that reason is, considering that C. Seward had thirty-five and a half years of postal service, as well as eight years in the Rifle Brigade and five years in the Reserve, with a discharge character of very good.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Mr. Seward's record was not considered sufficiently good to justify a recommendation for the Imperial Service Medal in his case.

Repairs to Dungannon Tunnel.

MR. MACVEAGH: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the attention of his Department has been called to the repairs recently made to the tunnel on the Great Northern Railway of Ireland at Dungannon; whether he can state the length and age of the tunnel and the number of times it has been repaired; and whether he will call for a report as to the necessity of making an open cutting.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The tunnel in question is 814 yards in length, and was opened for traffic in 1861. I cannot say how many times it has been repaired, nor has my attention been called to repairs recently made. The Board of Trade have no power to require the railway company to substitute an open cutting for the tunnel, but I am forwarding a copy of the hon. Member's Question to the company for their observation.

Imports of Hay and Straw.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): To ask the President of the Board of Trade what quantities of hay and straw have been imported from foreign countries and our Colonies during each of the last five years.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The following statement gives the particulars asked for:—

Quantities of hay and straw imported into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, in each of the years from 1901 to 1905, inclusive:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
			Hay.		
Imported from foreign countries .	158,734	258,166	115,604	79,812	73,403
British possessions .	41,242	98,875	51,804	51,422	43,510
Total . . .	199,976	357,041	167,408	131,234	116,913
			Straw.		
Imported from foreign countries .	40,315	79,571	72,680	115,881	102,254
British possessions .	—	—	—	—	—
Total . . .	46,315	79,571	72,680	115,881	102,254

List of Inhabitant Occupiers.

MR. WILES (Islington, S.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether all the registration authorities or overseers in London have complied with the terms of the circular of the Local Government Board, issued on April 26th, 1906, as to the instructions with regard to the preparation of the lists of inhabitant occupiers, in consequence of the decision in the case of Kent *v.* Fittall; and if not, which of these authorities or overseers have not complied.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) In one instance, viz., at Islington, some difficulty has been felt in giving effect to the suggestion in the circular, and I am in communication with the borough council on the subject. I am not aware of any other case in London in which the suggestion has not been complied with.

Service of Certificated Teachers.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether the Board has come to any decision as to the extension of the certificated teacher's undertaking of service to service in schools other than elementary; and, if the decision is in favour of such extension, when it will be announced.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Board have come to the conclusion that it is desirable to allow the students' declaration of service to be fulfilled by service in any State-aided or rate-aided school, including therein schools other than elementary. The insertion of a provision in the Board's regulations for training colleges to carry out that intention is, however, unavoidably delayed pending the solution of the great difficulties which surround the question of any scheme for securing from the teacher a guaranteed period of teaching service, as proposed by the Consultative Committee. While, therefore, the view of the Board on the point referred to in the Question may thus be said to be announced, it must not be understood therefrom that all of the points consequential to it, and essential to carrying it out, are yet completely settled.

Proposed Abolition of the Teachers' Register.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: To ask the President of the Board of Education whether the proposed abolition of the register of teachers is due to the fact that in his view it contravenes the provisions of 62 and 63 Victoria, c. 33, s. 4; and, if so, in what respects the register, as at present constituted, departs from or falls short of those provisions.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The reason suggested in the Question is only one among various reasons. The matter is too complicated and technical to admit of elucidation within the limits of an Answer to a Question on the Paper. But I shall be happy to lay upon the Table, for the information of Parliament, the Official Memorandum already sent, I think, to the hon. Baronet and others interested in the subject, in which are set out the various considerations which in the Board's view render it inadvisable to continue the existing statutory requirements regarding a register of teachers.

The Imperial Government and the Legislature of New South Wales.

MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Act passed by the Legislature of New South Wales with a view to obtaining the benefit of Section 20 of The Finance Act, 1894, was communicated to the Imperial Government early in the month of February, 1905, but, nevertheless, the Order in Council under Section 20 was delayed until May 29th, 1905; whether he is aware that the delay in passing the Order has involved a loss to one estate alone of upwards of £900; and whether, in order that individuals may not suffer by the delay of a public department, he will give instructions that in the case above referred to and in all similar cases the Order in Council shall be treated as retrospective, and a return of duty shall be made.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The usual course of procedure was followed in this instance. It was necessary to take legal advice as to the effect, not only of the Act referred to, but of other legislation of New South Wales, before the issue of an Order in Council could be agreed to. The Colonial Act was made to take effect from the date of the Order in Council, and there was therefore no ground for making the operation of the Order retrospective.

Army Meat Contracts.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether in view of the fact that native meat is supplied to the naval authorities in Portsmonth and Gosport, he will consider the advisability of applying the same system in supplying the troops in the three kingdoms.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The hon. Member is mistaken in supposing that native meat is exclusively supplied to the Navy at Portsmouth and Gosport.

Home Defence Committee—Scottish Volunteer Representative.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will consider the advisabity of appointing a representative of the Scottish Volunteer Force on the new Committee on Home Defence.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I am afraid that I cannot undertake to further enlarge the Committee, which has already reached ample proportions, in the direction proposed.

Woolwich and Sandhurst Cadets.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether in view of the fact that the fifty-six cadets who joined the Royal Military Academy in January last have been offered commissions in the Cavalry and Infantry, at the end of their year's training, to rank junior to the Sandhurst cadets of the same standing and without the option of joining the Indian Army, which is extended to the Sandhurst cadets, he will take steps to secure that the Woolwich cadets shall not be placed at a disadvantage seeing that they passed a higher examination.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Some inquiries were made in the direction indicated by the hon. Member, but he is mistaken in supposing that any definite offer to this effect has been made. There is now no intention of making any such offer.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Construction.

MR. RIDSDALE (Brighton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty which of the armoured cruisers allowed for in the Estimates of 1905–6 have been laid down.

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. LAMBERT, Devonshire, South Molton): The "Invincible," "Inflexible," and "Indomitable" have all been laid down, but the fourth armoured cruiser included in the programme of new construction for 1905–6 has been abandoned, as intimated in the statement explanatory of the Navy Estimates for the current year (Cd. 2837).

H.M.S. "Britannia."

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the proportion of candidates to vacancies submitting themselves to examination papers set by the Civil Service examiners for H.M.S. "Britannia" in 1902, and the proportion of candidates to the numbers passed submitting themselves to the examination papers set by the Oxford and Cambridge examiners for the qualifying examinations in 1905 under the new system for Osborne.

*MR. LAMBERT: The proportion of examinees to vacancies in H.M.S. "Britannia" in 1902 was roughly three to one, and at Osborne in 1905 was eight to seven; but as the examination in the former case was competitive, and in the latter only qualifying, the figures are in no way comparable.

Army Recruiting.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether advantage may be taken of the Territorial Army Committee to inquire into the question of the unpreparedness of this country in regard to the obtaining of recruits for foreign service in the time of war; and whether he will address to the Committee such questions as will enable him to construct machinery whereby on the outbreak of hostilities the pick of emergency Volunteers who do not belong to any branch of the service may be most readily obtained without friction.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): As I have already explained to the House, I am not prepared at the present moment to state the various questions which are being put to this Committee. I am not, therefore, in a position to give the hon. and gallant Member any information on the points raised in his Question.

Mounted Infantry Training.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Army Council contemplate any, and, if so, what, change in the method of training mounted infantry; and is any reduction contemplated in this branch of the force.

*MR. HALDANE: It is not at present intended to make any change in the method of training mounted infantry. As regards the last part of the Question will the hon. and gallant Member kindly refer to my reply to a Question put by the hon. and gallant Member for the Central Division of Sheffield on May 21st.

The Royal Artillery.

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is in contemplation to reduce the Royal Artillery by forty-five batteries, or by any other number of batteries, and to create Militia field batteries instead; and, if so, whether it is the opinion of the Army Council that from the point of view of efficiency in war, the processes of reduction for the purpose of effecting economies are most advantageously commenced by the destruction of the Royal Artillery.

COLONEL HERBERT (Monmouthshire, S.) put a Question of which he had given private notice, namely, whether the attention of the Secretary for War had been directed to the results obtained by the training of Militia field batteries in Canada, Australia, and Switzerland, and whether it would be possible to furnish the House with information as to the comparative cost of such batteries, and as to the standard of efficiency attained.

*MR. HALDANE (Haddington): My attention has been called to the mode of training in use in Canada, which, I believe, was much more successful than was expected by experts in this country. The whole matter is under consideration, and no decision of any sort has been arrived at, but I will consider whether I can give my hon. and gallant friend the information asked for in the latter part of his Question. It would not appear expedient to discuss in the form of an Answer to a Question any possible measures for reduction which might be in contemplation at the War Office. I am afraid therefore that I am not at present in a position to give the hon. and gallant Member any reply to his Question, but he should not assume from my silence that such a decision as he suggests has been made.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): As the right hon. Gentleman is unable to state that he is not going to destroy forty-five batteries will he undertake to inform the House before taking any steps which might have such a result?

*MR. HALDANE said he was not going to destroy forty-five batteries, nor did he propose to do anything without the matter coming fully and properly before the House.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) asked whether this was one of the subjects under the consideration of the Territorial Army Committee; and, if so, whether there were any officers commanding field batteries or brigades serving on the Committee.

*MR. HALDANE said this was an hypothesis he could not answer, because it was obvious that the question of the Regular Artillery could not have been submitted. How could the Territorial Committee decide what the proportion of artillery was which was necessary to the Regular Army? That was obviously a question for the General Staff and the Army Council.

MR. ARTHUR LEE said he was sorry he had been misunderstood. The question had reference to the conversion of batteries into Militia, and he presumed the Militia would form part of the Territorial Army.

*MR HALDANE said there might be some surplus batteries. That question was under the consideration—not of the Territorial Committee; the matter was one for the General Staff, and ultimately for the Army Council, to whom the General Staff reported.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER asked what surplus was meant.

*MR. HALDANE said it was difficult to answer these Questions. It was obvious that however large a striking force one took, even a much larger striking force than we had at present, one could tell how many batteries were necessary for it. That was a calculation which could only be made by the General Staff, and if, when they had arrived at it, there was a surplus, that surplus might be dealt with on a less expensive footing.

The Union Jack.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will give instructions that the Union Jack be hoisted on the War Office building on Empire Day, May 24th, annually in future.

*MR. HALDANE: I have nothing to add to the reply which I have already given the hon. and gallant Member on this subject.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: Arising out of that Answer, may I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he will consider the flying of the Union Jack on the War Office buildings all the year round, night and day, as it will relieve the right hon. Gentleman of the necessity of choosing days on which to hoist it. [Cries of "Order."] I am perfectly in order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I think the hon. Member had better give notice of that.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): Is it not the fact that the Union Flag cannot be hoisted as the Jack except on board ship?

*MR. HALDANE: That is too abstruse for me.

Death Sentences on Soldiers.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War with reference to the Annual Report on the Army [Cd. 2696], page 77, what were the names and corps of the two men on whom the death penalty was inflicted abroad in 1905, what were the offences for which they were tried, on what dates were they tried, where and by whom; also the names of the persons who confirmed the sentences, and what opportunity was given to these men to appeal; and whether the evidence has since been submitted to the Judge Advocate-General, and if he approved of the sentences.

*MR. HALDANE: The death sentences referred to were those inflicted in India on two privates of the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment and 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers for murder. The men were tried by General Courts-Martial at Secunderabad and Chakrata respectively, in July, 1904. The sentences were both confirmed by the General Officers Commanding Secunderabad Division and Eastern Command, and were approved by the Governor-General of India in Council, after review by the Judge Advocate-General in India. It is not considered desirable to make public the men's names. As regards the appeal there is no provision under the Army Act for an appeal; the sentence, however, is revised by the confirming officer and the legality of the proceedings, including the finding, by the Judge Advocate-General; and all courts martial proceedings pass through both these individuals.

MR. LEA asked whether the murder was a murder of natives or Europeans.

*MR. HALDANE asked for notice of the Question. If the hon. Member would communicate with him privately he would try to furnish him with details.

MR. LEA further asked whether, as there was to be a Court of Criminal Appeal for civilians, a similar Court of Appeal would be provided in connection with courts-martial.

*MR. HALDANE said this was a very big question. The present procedure was one of the most merciful he could conceive. A very considerable number of cases were quashed or the sentences reduced.

Soldiers and Penal Servitude.

MR. LEA; I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War with reference to the Annual Report on the Army [Cd. 2696], page 77, what were the names and corps of the nine men serving at Home who were sentenced to penal servitude and the fifteen men serving Abroad who were likewise sentenced in 1905, will he give in each case the offence or offences for which each man was tried, and when, where, and by whom they were tried, also the names of the persons who confirmed the sentences, and what opportunity was given in each case to appeal; and whether the evidence has since been submitted to the Judge Advocate-General, and if he approved of each sentence.

*MR. HALDANE: I am glad my hon. friend has given me an opportunity to correct a clerical error in the return. The figures for soliders sentenced to penal servitude in 1905 should have been stated to be, one serving at Home; eleven serving Abroad. All these sentences were inflicted by General Courts-Martial and were confirmed at Home, by His Majesty the King; Abroad, by the General Officer Commanding the troops. The proceedings have all been reviewed by the Judge Advocate-General concerned, and, in India, the confirmations were approved by the Governor-General in Council. The particulars of the cases are as follows:—At Home: a man of the Manchester Regiment was tried at Ashton in January, 1905, for deserting from Ladysmith during the siege. Abroad: a man of the 2nd Border Regiment was tried at Thayatmyo in September, 1905, for wounding with intent to murder, and another of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers was tried at Mooltan, in November, 1904, for a similar offence. Seven men of the 1st West India Regiment were tried at Barbados in October, 1904, for perjury. A man of the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers was tried in Mauritius, in October, 1904, for striking a lieutenant on duty, and another of the 3rd Lancashire Fusiliers was tried at Middelburg in April, 1905, for striking a sergeant on duty. It is considered, in the interests of the men, not advisable to make public their names. As regards appeal the reply is as given to Question No. 58.†

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Why is it considered necessary to conceal the names of men who deserted to the enemy?

*MR. HALDANE: The necessity does not apply specially to that case. The information is always available if required.

MR. LEA: How did the discrepancy in the figures arise?

*MR. HALDANE: It was a clerical error in making out the return.

The New Bayonet.

MR. WALTERS (Sheffield, Brightside): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the pattern for the new bayonets has been decided upon; and, if so, when the orders for the same will be distributed.

*MR. HALDANE: The pattern for the new bayonets has not yet been settled.

Maldon Rifle Range.

MR. T. R. BETHELL (Essex, Maldon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the present rifle range at Maldon, and, seeing that the War Office inspector has approved a new proposed range, whether he will consider the desirability of recommending the Treasury to defray one-half (£225) the estimated cost of this range.

*MR. HALDANE: My attention has been drawn to this matter. The whole of the money that was available under the Military Works Loans for contributions in aid to Volunteer ranges has already been allocated and no further grants can be made from this source. I can hold out no hope whatever of any provision being made in Army Estimates for such a purpose.

Army Meat Contracts.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any alteration has been made in the form of tender for contracts for supply of meat to the Army; whether such forms until recently stipulated for supply of home-fed meat; whether the new forms have been adopted in order to enable foreign-fed meat to be supplied to the Army.

*MR. HALDANE: The reply to the first two Questions is in the affirmative. The object of the alteration in the contract is not that stated by the hon. Member, but to get the best fresh meat at the lowest price for the soldier, as explained by me in an Answer to a Question put on the 14th instant by the hon. Member for the St. Patrick's Division of Dublin.‡

Chinese Coolies in South Africa—Repatriation Notices.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will consider the advisability of recommending that a limit be placed on the time during which the new repatriation notices are to be posted in the Transvaal mines, so that, in the event of coolies at present at work, or arriving in the near future, being satisfied that the conditions of indentured labour do not constitute slavery, no further inducement to break their contracts may be held out to them, thus securing a definite settled policy to the mining industry.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): No limit will be placed upon the operation of the repatriation notice during such time as His Majesty's Government may retain any direct responsibility for the conduct of Transvaal affairs.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, under the new Government repatriation notices posted up in the Transvaal mines, the bare statement of any Chinese coolie that he considers the present conditions of indentured labour constitute slavery will be a sufficient plea to justify his demand for immediate repatriation at Government expense without further inquiry.

MR. CHURCHILL: The hon. and gallant Member will be able to satisfy himself by careful and intelligent scrutiny of the terms of the notice which I read to the House that such a bare statement would not necessarily be deemed conclusive in itself.

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† See preceding Question and Answer.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 172.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): Arising out of that Answer, will the hon. Gentleman state when a copy of the translation I asked for previously will be ready.

MR. CHURCHILL said that he received the hon. Member's Question before he went away, and promised that he would ask the Secretary of State for a translation to be made, informing him that the hon. Member was willing, if necessary, to bear half the cost of telegraphing. During his absence he had not been able to bring this matter to the notice of the Secretary of State. Inquiries had been made by the ordinary mail, and it was scarcely worth while at this juncture that a telegram should be sent.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: It will give me more time to master the language.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now state the number of Chinese coolies employed in the Transvaal mines who have applied to be repatriated under the terms of the notices recently issued; and what will be the cost to the Treasury of returning them to China.

MR. CHURCHILL: Lord Selborne has reported that so far twelve Chinese coolies have applied to be repatriated. The cost to the Treasury will not exceed £17 10s. each.

Recruitment of Coolies.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state the total number of unexpired licences for the importation of Chinese coolies into South Africa; and at what date all further importation will have ceased.

MR. CHURCHILL: 2,110 coolies are at present on the sea and 8,142 remain to be recruited. Lord Selborne reports that the date of cessation of importation cannot be fixed at present.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, having regard to the evidence that the Chinese coolies are unwilling to leave the mines at Johannesburg and return to China until their contracts expire, the Government will now reconsider the Resolution to grant no more licences for the introduction of Chinese into the Transvaal under the Ordinance.

MR. CHURCHILL: No Sir, His Majesty's Government have no intention of removing a prohibition deliberately determined and declared to Parliament.

Coolies Petition to Lord Selborne.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that on Sunday last Lord Selborne received a petition from coolies employed at Jumpers Deep Mine, in which they declared that they did not want to go home, and that if they were compelled to do so they wanted the balance of their three years' wages, as they had given up situations in China; and will he state to the House the exact terms of this appeal against repatriation.

MR. CHURCHILL: Lord Selborne reports that the purport of the petition was to state that they had come to the Transvaal for the purpose of earning money wherewith to support their families in China; that they had heard they were going to be compelled to return to China and that if the Government compelled them to return to China without fault on their part before they had served their three years' contract they prayed that they might be paid the money they would otherwise have earned during the three years and on which they had been reckoning.

MR. LEHMANN (Leicestershire, Market Harborough): Are these the same coolies who petitioned Lord Selborne that they might be continued to be flogged.

MR. CHURCHILL: I admit there seems to be a family resemblance.

Lord Selborne and the Coolie Compounds.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any report has been received from Lord Selborne of his inspection of coolies in the Chinese compounds on the 27th instant; whether his attention has been called to the fact that representatives of the coolies declared that they were fairly treated and comfortable, and earned more than they could earn in China; that they did not want to go home, and if compelled to do so against their will would demand three years wages; and what further inducements do the Government intend to offer to the Chinese to break their contracts and return to their own land.

MR. CHURCHILL: Lord Selborne has made a report of his inspection of the coolies in their compounds on May 27th, and the account which my hon. friend reproduces is generally correct.

MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): Do the coolies who declared that they could earn more than they did in China include "the ruined gamblers and thorough scoundrels" alluded to by Lord Selborne in his recent dispatch?

[No Answer was returned.]

Uganda—Sleeping Sickness Inquiry.

SIR C. HILL (Shrewsbury): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he will lay papers and maps showing the results, up to the present time, of the investigations which have been made under the auspices or with the assistance of His Majesty's Government into the sleeping sickness in the Uganda Protectorate; and whether he will state what administrative steps are being taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

MR. CHURCHILL: A series of Reports by the Sleeping Sickness Commission, working under the direction of the Royal Society and subsidised by the Government, has been issued, partly by the Royal Society and partly by the Stationery Office. If copies are not available in the Library of the House I shall be happy to take steps for having them placed there. No administrative measures of any importance have yet been taken to check the spread of the disease because no practical solution has yet presented itself. The subject is receiving the most earnest attention.

SIR C. HILL asked if a sum of from £3,000 to £4,000 was not included in the estimates of 1904–5 for the purpose, among other things, of cutting down trees with a view to improving the condition of affairs. Was that still being expended, and could not the balance be devoted to improving sanitation.

MR. CHURCHILL asked for notice of the Question.

Martial Law in Natal.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has noticed the opinion publicly expressed by Mr. W. B. Morcom, K.C., a member of the Natal Legislative Assembly, that, as there had never been a state of war in the country, martial law ought never to have been proclaimed; and that the prisoners could just as well have been indicted and tried at a session of the Supreme Court; and, seeing that the proclamation of martial law tended to engender racial animosity, will the Secretary of State bring pressure to bear on the Natal Government to put an end to it.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has read Mr. Morcom's statement in the newspapers. As Mr. Morcom is a member of the Natal Legislative Assembly he is readily enabled, and no doubt fully qualified, to press his views upon the Government of Natal by speeches from his place in Parliament.

MR. BYLES asked whether the Government at home would bring pressure to bear on the Natal Government.

MR. CHURCHILL: I do not think that the fact that a Member of the Natal Parliament has made a speech to his constituents or at a public meeting affords any fresh grounds for the Imperial Government's adopting any action different from that which they have hitherto taken.

MR. BYLES asked whether, seeing that there were a million of natives towards whom the Imperial Government had responsibility, and that in the opinion of Mr. Morcom martial law was unnecessary, the Imperial Government would not exercise pressure on the Natal Government to withdraw martial law.

MR. CHURCHILL: I cannot think that is a new fact that justifies a new policy.

MAJOR SEELY asked whether the Government would make representations to the Government of Natal with a view to bringing this martial law to an end.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am afraid that its continuance must necessarily be governed by the continuance of a state of serious insurrection and of the military operations.

MR. BYLES: Is it not more the cause than the consequence of the rebellion?

British Soldiers in the Punjab—Alleged Outrages.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to a case in the Rawalpindi Cantonment, in the Punjab, in which a party of British soldiers molested certain public women, and, on their crying for help, caused such injury to an Indian policeman who came to their rescue as resulted in his death; and also to a case in the Jullundhar Cantonment, in the Punjab, in which a punkha coolie was kicked to death by a gunner of the Royal Field Battery; and whether, looking to the fact that these are the third and fourth cases in which it is alleged that Indians have met with their death at the hands of British soldiers during the past two or three months, he will cause inquiry to be made into the facts of these cases, and take measures which shall prevent, by the improvement of discipline or otherwise, the repetition of such occurences.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I have not received any information as to the cases referred to in the Question, but will make inquiries.

The Partition of Bengal.

MR. BYLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether having regard to the statements of responsible Indian authorities that the agitation against the partition of Bengal is rapidly growing and that the boycott of Manchester goods is serious and threatening, he can make any statement to reassure the Manchester trading public.

MR. MORLEY: I am not aware that responsible Indian authorities have made such statements as the hon. Gentleman refers to; but he may be assured that the Government of India is watching the course of events with all possible attention.

China and the Opium Traffic.

MR. A. DEWAR (Edinburgh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether in the event of the Chinese Government terminating the Convention of Cheefoo, the Treaty of Tien-tsin would then revive; whether under the Treaty of Tien-tsin China is compelled to accept as much opium as India desires to send, subject to an import duty of thirty taels per pecul; whether he is aware that the opium habit is widely prevalent in China and seriously demoralises the Chinese people, physically and morally; and whether he will intimate to the Chinese Government that they are now free to regulate the opium traffic, or to exclude opium from Chinese territory by high tariff or otherwise as to them shall seem right, and that irrespective of any existing convention or treaty?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): The Answer to the first Question is in the affirmative. It is legal to import opium at the Treaty ports under Rule 5 of the rules of trade attached to the Treaty of Tientsin, subject to a duty of thirty taels per pecul. The third and fourth Questions raise large questions of opinion and controversy, which cannot be satisfactorily dealt with in the limits of a departmental answer, and which I would ask my hon. friend to defer till they can be dealt with on behalf of the Government in debate.

Income Tax—Collectors, Poundage.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the total amount of poundage paid, and to how many collectors, in respect of the collection of income-tax during the financial year 1905–6, at what rate was that poundage calculated, and on what ground was it paid; were any payments of poundage made during that year in cases where the income-tax was levied by deduction at the source; and, if so, at what rate, on what ground, to how many collectors, and to what total amount.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire E.): On page 42 of the Revenue Departments Estimates for the current year will be found the amounts provided for remuneration of collectors (and assessors) of income-tax. The amounts expended in 1905-6 corresponded very closely with the sums provided in the Vote for that year. The remuneration of collectors in England and Scotland is made by means of fixed allowances in lieu of poundage, and poundage is only paid to them in respect of a very small fraction of their duties, viz., that connected with the collection of tax on certificates of removal. In Ireland collectors are still paid by poundage, of which the rate is fixed from year to year according to the circumstances of the year. The poundage payable to bankers and others for assessment and collection of duty on foreign dividends is at present 4d. in the £., or 1d. in excess of the minimum fixed by the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1885. The number of collectors receiving poundage could only be ascertained by a detailed investigation of the accounts, which would entail considerable labour.

Rhenish Wine Sale.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that at a public auction of wines and spirits to be held in the City of London on the 31st instant, there are to be offered for sale 436 aums (13,952 gallons) of Rhenish wine which has never paid duty, being imported into this country as unfermented grape juice and fermented in London, involving a loss to the National Revenue of £872, and causing unfair competition with duty-paid wines; and what action he intends to take in the matter.

MR. ASQUITH: My attention has been called to the advertisement of the sale referred to, and I am causing inquiries to be made into the matter. The Revenue Bill of this session contains a clause imposing a licence duty upon the manufacture for sale of wines in the United Kingdom, with a view to bringing the industry under the supervision and control of the Inland Revenue Department. This will enable me to obtain more precise information than I have at present of the extent to which such manufacture is carried on, and to judge more accurately what further steps are necessary for the protection of the Revenue.

Motor 'Bus Accidents in London.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in view of the increase in the number of motor 'bus accidents in London, he will consider the advisability of suspending the licences of motor 'buses the owners of which require the drivers to work an excessive number of hours each day.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I have no power to take the action suggested by the hon. Member.

MR. WEIR: Can you not take some action against these infernal machines?

[No Answer was returned.]

The Watt Case.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by whose authority, and upon what representations, the necessary funds were recently provided out of the Secret Service Fund to send Shuttle, one of the witnesses at the trial of Hugh Watt, to Canada; and whether there is any objection to stating the amount which he received and the conditions, if any, upon which he was sent away.

MR. GLADSTONE: The hon. Member is mistaken in referring to a payment from the Secret Service Fund. In answer to a question on the 28th, I stated that the money came from the Special Service Fund. That is a fund which forms part of the Civil List Fund which is under the control of the First Lord of the Treasury. A sum of £16 6s. 8d. was granted for Shuttle's benefit. The greater part of this sum was applied for Shuttle's outfit, passage and railway fare. The remainder (£3) was given him after reaching his destination. No conditions were imposed upon him.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Does the right hon. Gentleman think it a friendly act to dump these undesirable aliens on Canada ?

[No Answer was returned.]

Irish Factory Workers' Wages.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that in mills and factories in small towns in the north of Ireland the workers are paid fortnightly instead of weekly; and whether, in view of the inconvenience thus caused to workers, and of the encouragement given to gombeenism and usury, he proposes to remedy the grievance by introducing a suitable provision into some of the labour Bills now before Parliament.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have been asked to answer this Question by the President of the Board of Trade. I have received no representations on the subject, and I am not prepared to suggest legislation.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should make further inquiry.

The Unemployed.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the Motion authorising the payment out of moneys to be provided by Parliament of an additional annual grant, not exceeding £1,000,000, to be distributed among local educational authorities, to meet the cost arising out of an Act of the present session to make further provision in respect to education in England and Wales; and whether he is prepared to recommend a grant for a similar amount to be distributed among local distress committees, to enable them to make further provision with respect to providing work for the unemployed, in pursuance of the promised Act of the present session dealing with distress due to lack of employment.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I am aware of the Motion referred to in the Question. The circumstances in which the Government propose that the new education grant should be made differ, I think, from those affecting the other matter mentioned by my hon. friend, and I am afraid that I could not promise to make the recommendation which he suggests.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I will call attention to this matter later on to-day.

Direct Employment of Labour by the Fulham Guardians.

MR. T. DAVIES (Fulham): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the sanction of his Department has been refused to the guardians of Fulham to carry out certain painting works to buildings under their control by direct employment of labour; whether he is aware of the fact that similar work was carried out three years ago without the intervention of a contractor, with the approval and to the satisfaction of the Local Government Board; and, in view of that, will he have the matter reconsidered.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The facts are as stated in the first part of the Question. I am not aware that the approval of the Local Government Board was given to work similar to that now proposed being carried out at Fulham three years ago without the intervention of a contractor, though it is the case that no objection was offered by the Board to a small work involving a cost of about £150 being carried out in this way in 1902, in connection with the infirm wards of the workhouse.

Pauperism in the East End.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can give figures showing the pauperism of West Ham and Poplar at the present time as compared with what it was at the beginning of this year and on January 1st, 1905.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The total number of paupers at West Ham on the 19th instant was 4,057 less than on January 1st last and 9,339 less than on January 1st, 1905. The total number at Poplar was 2,442 less than on January 1st last and 2,875 less than on January 1st, 1905.

School Building Loans.

MR. WALTERS: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will reconsider his decision limiting loans for new school buildings to thirty years; and whether he will grant an extended period where the buildings contemplated warrant such an extension.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The rule upon which the Local Government Board usually act is not to allow more than thirty years for the repayment of loans for buildings. I have given careful consideration to the matter, but I do not think that an exception to this rule can be made as regards loans for schools.

Metropolitan Poor Relief.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board how many boards of guardians have adopted the Order which was issued in December last authorising the relief out of the workhouse of the wife and family of any able-bodied male person who is relieved in the workhouse; have any Metropolitan boards adopted the Order; and, if so, will he say which; how many families in all have been relieved under the Order, and how many in the Metropolis alone; has he received any report from his inspectors as to the operation of the Order, and will he state the effect of those reports; and does he intend to continue the Order, which was made operative for six months only.

MR. JOHN BURNS: No Order on this subject was issued in December last, nor has there been any general Order with regard to it. But last November separate Orders were issued to Kensington and Islington, authorising the arrangement referred to for six months, and in January similar Orders were issued to Wandsworth and Hampstead. The two former Orders have just expired, and I have not received any application for their renewal. The other Orders will not expire until July next. So far as I am aware, no families have been relieved under these Orders. The Poplar Guardians, however, did avail themselves of the powers conferred on them by a similar Order which was issued early in 1905, but I cannot state precisely to what extent.

Congleton and Biddulph Postmasters.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he has had his attention drawn to cases of interference of the postmaster at the Congletion Post Office with the postmen and officers under him; whether he is aware that the postmaster has issued orders that no wages are to be paid till after 5 p.m., and that some of the officers have not received their wages till after 9 p.m. on Saturdays; whether he is aware that the same postmaster has issued orders for absolute silence in the postmen's room, and has threatened to deprive one of his officers of a stripe for talking to fellow workmen when waiting for his round, and that the same officer has been cautioned that he will have his increment and stripes arrested if he is found wearing his cap in the office; and whether he will take any, and, if any, what action in the matter. I beg also to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to a complaint of the sub-postmaster at Biddulph; that he accepted the sub-postmastership on condition that he received the same scale of pay as his predecessors; and that the scale has since been reduced 30s. by the Congleton postmaster, who also ordered the sub-postmaster at Biddulph to dismiss a man, who was performing his duty satisfactorily, at once without notice or reason assigned; and that this man has since been reappointed at a reduced rate, and has now to perform a round of eight and a half miles on six mornings each week for 6s. per week; and whether he will cause inquiries to be made into the treatment of the workers in this district of his Department, and take steps to pay proper wages for the service they render.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I am making inquiry respecting the matters referred to in the hon. Member's Question and will communicate the result to him.

Parliamentary Postal Employees.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether when the House rises for the Easter and Whitsuntide holidays the Post Office employees in the House, or any of them, are allowed those holidays; and, if not, will he consider the desirability of allowing those officers who are not required on duty in the House during Easter and Whitsuntide to have the benefit of those holidays in turn, in consideration of their long hours and the duties so efficiently discharged.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I fully appreciate the efficient way in which the duties of the post office at the House of Commons are performed, but I should not be justified in allowing the staff the same holidays as the House takes. Those of the staff who perform late duties receive an additional week's holidays in consideration of the irregular hours of their duty. The hours per week are those of their class generally, *i.e.*, forty-eight a week.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I will bring the matter up again.

Customs Examining Officers.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury how many second class clerks, lower section, and how many second class examining officers were in the Customs Department on March 31st, 1901; how many of these clerks and officers, respectively, had been promoted to the next higher grade since that date; what were the average salaries immediately prior to such promotions; what salaries and what average immediate increases in salary did the promotions carry with them in each case; and what was the average service in the clerical department of the clerks and the average service in the outdoor department of the officers when they obtained these promotions.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The number of second class clerks, lower section, in the Customs Department on March 31st, 1901, was 120, and of these 104 had, to March 31st last, been promoted to the next higher grade, the salary of which is £200–£300. The average salary of these clerks immediately prior to their promotion was £114 1s. 5d., and the average immediate increase in salary upon their promotion amounted to £85 18s. 7d. Their average service was six years nine months. The number of examining officers, second class, in the Customs Department on March 31st, 1901, was 846. Of these, 166 had—to March 31st last—been promoted to the next higher grade, the salary of which is £230–£340. The average salary immediately prior to the promotion of these officers was £211 1s. 8d., and the average immediate increase in their salaries upon promotion amounted to £18 18s. 4d. The average service in the outdoor department previous to their promotion was twenty-three years eight months.

Tram Ticket Lotteries.

MR. BILLSON (Staffordshire, N.W.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he will take steps to ensure the attention of the Public Prosecutor being called to a scheme for distributing a sum, said to be £1,000 weekly, to certain holders of tram and 'bus tickets, with the view to ascertaining whether such scheme is a breach of the Lottery Acts.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) was understood to say that he was in communication with the Public Prosecutor, who had taken advice upon the matter. He had been advised that in an analogous case it was held that no breach of the Lottery Acts had been committed, and that view had been taken by a magistrate of the City of London.

Dunoon Burgh Auditor.

MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland for what reason and under what circumstances he has superseded the present burgh auditor of Dunoon, who has performed the duties of the post with complete satisfaction for many years; and what advantage to the public, in either efficiency or economy, will result from the change.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): In appointing burgh auditors for 1905–6, the Burgh of Dunoon has, in furtherance of the policy of grouping, already applied with much advantage in the case of counties, been grouped with several other burghs, subject to similar conditions as to accounts and audit under one auditor and in the interest of public efficiency. In accordance with this same principle, the former auditor acts as auditor for an important group of counties. Burgh auditorships are held on a yearly tenure, and auditors are annually reminded of this in the formal intimations of appointment made to them.

MR. AINSWORTH: In view of the general dissatisfaction caused, will the right hon. Gentleman consider the desirability of reverting to the old system?

MR. SINCLAIR replied that he had no evidence of dissatisfaction such as would justify him in doing so.

Irish Land Purchase Finance.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland the amount of money required to meet outstanding sales voluntarily arranged, agreements for which are in the hands of the Estates Commissioners; and can he give the date by which it may reasonably be expected the last of them will be dealt with.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S): The Estates Commissioners inform me that the amount of advances applied for and not yet made, in respect of sales by direct agreement between landlord and tenant, is £25,123,572. The Commissioners are unable to forecast the date by which all these advances will be made.

Irish County Court Criers.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will inquire into the allegation that the criers in certain Irish county courts, amongst others those of Limerick, Meath, Galway, Fermanagh, and Tyrone, are in the habit of exacting fees from suitors for which there is no legal warrant; and whether he has made any inquiry on the subject from the Irish county court judges, or otherwise called their attention to the alleged prevalence of this practice.

MR. BRYCE: This Question has been referred to the county courts judges of the five counties named, all of whom have replied that they have no knowledge of any illegal exaction of fees by the criers of their courts, and no complaint on the subject have been received. If any such complaint should be made to any of the judges, it will be duly investigated.

Irish Poor Law Inquiry—Medical Grievances.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the advisability of adding to the Commission about to inquire into the Poor Law matters in Ireland a member of the medical profession who is in thorough touch and sympathy with the Irish Poor Law medical profession, with a view to bringing before the Commission the grievances and disabilities under which the profession labours at the present time.

MR. BRYCE: My right hon. friend the Prime Minister has already stated that it is not intended to appoint to the Royal Commission on the Poor Law a member representative of the Irish medical profession. On this subject I may refer to the reply which I gave to the Question of the hon. Member for North Fermanagh on April 30th.†

Royal Irish Constabulary—Rewards for Bravery.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Royal Irish Constabulary Reward Board accorded favourable records and money grants to the police stationed at Moy, county Tyrone, for conduct at a fire in December, 1905, and refused to make a similar reward to the constabulary at Keady for their courageous conduct at a fire in May last; can he state why this difference was made; and whether the officers on the Board were the same at the consideration of both cases.

MR. BRYCE: The Inspector-General informs me that the facts are as stated in the first part of the Question. The reason why a difference was made in the two cases was that in one case the fire was a very dangerous one, and the men rewarded exhibited exceptional courage and all were scorched and burned or otherwise injured. In the other case referred to, the duty performed by the police was not of such an exceptional nature as would warrant the granting of rewards. The officers comprising the Reward Board were the same in both cases.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 220.

Irish Board of Intermediate Education Rules.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the new rules of the Board of Intermediate Education for Ireland received the official sanction of the Lord-Lieutenant before they were laid upon the Table of this House; and whether there is any precedent for the action of the Chief Secretary in supporting an amendment of rules in such circumstances.

MR. BRYCE: The rules received the formal sanction of the Lord-Lieutenant, no representations on the subject having been addressed to him from any quarter. But, subsequently, facts which at the time were not known to His Excellency have led to a consideration of the rules, which disclosed objections.

Irish Fishing Industry—Suggested Inquiry.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Galway County Council have represented to him the opportunity afforded, by the inquiry into the working of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Department, of placing the sea fisheries on a sound and practical basis by appointing a representative Fishery Board, as in Scotland, with competent and practical experts as instructors, and establishing a Government brand for mackerel and herrings, which has proved of such great advantage to Scotland in its herring fishing, and has been often asked for by smaller merchants engaged in fish curing in this country; and, if so, what action does the Government intend taking in the matter.

MR. BRYCE: I have received resolutions to the effect stated from several county councils, including, I believe, Galway, and have referred these resolutions to the Committee of Inquiry into the working of the Department, because the subject of Governmental action in fishery matters seems to fall within the scope of their inquiry.

Belfast Police Inquiries.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the advisability of recommending the addition to the commission of inquiry into the police force of Belfast of some English chief constable known to be capable of bringing to bear practical views on the subject of the inquiry.

MR. BRYCE: The Belfast Police Commission of Inquiry has already set about its work, and the competence of its members makes it unnecessary to add to the number.

Ballinamore Rate Collector.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Leitrim County Council have appointed to the position of rate collector for the divisions of Ballinamore, Nos. 1 and 2, Mr. P. Curran, who tendered at the commission of sixpence in the pound, although they had before them a local candidate, of approved character and competency, who was willing to undertake the work at a commission of twopence in the pound; and whether he will direct inquiry to be made into the conditions under which the Leitrim County Council make appointments for which they are responsible.

MR. BRYCE: The Leitrim County Council have appointed as poor rate collector for the Ballinamore No. 1 division Mr. Patrick Curran at a poundage of sixpence, the rate at which he tendered. The Local Government Board understand that other candidates tendered for this appointment, two of them at twopence in the pound. The Board doubt the expediency of the course adopted on this occasion by the county council of inviting tenders for the collection of the poor rate. The Board are of opinion that the council should be guided in their selection for this important office by the character and competency of the applicant and not by the rate of payment at which he is prepared to undertake the work. The necessary particulars have not yet been received to enable the Local Government Board to decide as to the fitness of Mr. Curran for the office. Since August last, however, he has given satisfaction as a temporary poor rate collector in the same and at the same poundage fee.

Irish Cattle Traders' Association and Army Meat Contracts.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a copy of the resolution passed by the Irish Cattle Traders' and Stockowners' Association, protesting against the change recently made in the Army meat tender form, under which contractors can supply foreign meat killed at the port of entry instead of native home-bred meat; and whether, in view of the injury which this change will inflict upon Irish farmers, he will make representations on the subject to the Army Council with the view of having home-bred substituted for home-killed in the forms of tender.

Mr. BRYCE: A copy of the resolution in question has been received by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, who are in communication with the Army Council in the matter.

Dublin Metropolitan Police—Examiners for Promotion.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the superintendent of the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force who examines candidates for promotion is the same superintendent who issued the memorandum to certain inspectors urging them to make cases against licensed traders; and, if so, can he say what are the qualifications of this officer for conducting these examinations.

Mr. BRYCE: I am informed by the Chief Commissioner that when examinations for promotion take place a board, comprising two superintendents, conducts that part of it which consists of police duties and drill, and reports the result to the Chief Commissioner. The superintendent referred to in the Question takes his turn in this duty, and is fully qualified to do so.

Dublin Police Inquiries.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether evidence elicited at inquiries, conducted in privacy, into charges and complaints against members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force is taken on oath; and, if not, whether he will take steps to insure that in future witnesses at such inquiries shall be sworn; whether such inquiries have been held in the absence of the accused; whether, during the chief commissionership of Mr. Jones, every encouragement was given to accused policemen to produce all evidence that could possibly bear on their cases; whether such encouragement is now withheld; whether, during Mr. Jones's period of office, complicated cases were usually adjourned and sometimes submitted to two or three superintendents, who were delegated to make searching investigations, at which the evidence was recorded by a shorthand writer; whether this practice has since been abandoned; and whether he will take steps to insure that such procedure, if abandoned, shall be reverted to.

Mr. BRYCE: The Chief Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police informs me that disciplinary inquiries in his force are not conducted in privacy. Evidence is not taken on oath at these inquiries, nor is it considered necessary or desirable that it should be so taken. Inquiries are never held in the absence of the accused. The Chief Commissioner understands that his predecessor permitted witnesses to be examined on behalf of accused constables when he considered it necessary or desirable, and a similar course is followed now. Complicated cases are now, as formerly, adjourned when necessity arises; and when occasion requires such cases are now, as formerly, referred to two or more superintendents for investigation. The practice of having a shorthand note taken by a member of the force at such investigations was found not to greatly facilitate matters, as the note taker in many cases was not a rapid writer; and the practice was therefore abandoned. The Chief Commissioner does not think a return to the practice necessary or desirable.

Tyrone Rate Collector's Defalcation.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it has come to the knowledge of the police that any defalcation has taken place in the rates collected for the county of Tyrone; and, if so, who was the defaulter, and what are his present whereabouts.

*Mr. BRYCE: The Local Government Board have received information that in November last, upon the resignation of

Mr. Warmington, poor rate collector, it was found that his accounts were deficient to the extent of £600, and the amount was made good to the county council by his sureties. No application has been made to the police by the local authorities to take action against the late rate collector, and the local authorities themselves have not taken any proceedings against him. I have no information as to his whereabouts.

MR. MACVEAGH asked if this Mr. Warmington was not secretary to the County Orange Lodge, and whether influence was brought to bear by prominent Unionists of the county to prevent a prosecution by the police.

*MR. BRYCE: I have no information. I believe the question of prosecution would be one primarily for the county council.

MR. MACVEAGH: Where is this gentleman now?

*MR. BRYCE: I do not know.

Irish Workhouse Teachers.

MR. FLYNN: (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board are prepared to sanction the appointment of a principal workhouse teacher, at the same salary as the principal teacher of an ordinary national school, without rations, in case of a board of guardians desiring to make the appointment on such terms in accordance with the Local Government Act; and is the Local Government Board also willing to sanction the appointment of a trained nurse on similar terms.

*MR. BRYCE: The Local Government Board do not sanction the appointment without rations of intern officers unless the circumstances are very exceptional, and this rule would apply to the case of a trained nurse. The system is, in the Board's opinion, open to grave objections. In the exceptional cases in which the Board sanction an allowance in lieu of rations such allowance is not regarded as salary for the purpose of recoupment under Section 58 of the Local Government Act, 1898.

Donegal and the Marine Works Grants.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the respective claims of Malin Head and Moville, county Donegal, to grants under the Marine Works Act will be promptly considered by the Government.

*MR. BRYCE: I am afraid I cannot hold out any hope that a grant under the Marine Works Act will be made for works at either of the places named. I find that a scheme for providing harbour accommodation at Malin Head was originally considered, but it was found that no work of permanent utility could be constructed there owing to the exposed situation, and the funds which would have been available for works at Malin Head were, before I entered office, allocated to other places in county Donegal. Moville is not within a congested district, and is therefore not qualified, in any case, to receive a grant from the Marine Works Fund.

Urban Labourers' House Loans.

MR. BARRIE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now prepared to encourage corporations and urban councils in Ireland to provide houses for labourers by granting loans on the same terms as regards repayment and rate of interest as it is now proposed to give to rural councils.

*MR. BRYCE: No, Sir.

Dublin Police Sergeants.

* MR PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will give the number of sergeants of the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force reduced and the number restored to their rank during the last five years, and the number of sergeants reduced and the number restored during the last five years of Mr. Jones' term of office as Chief Commissioner.

*MR. BRYCE: The Chief Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police informs me that he does not consider that it would be in the interests of the public service or of the discipline of his force to give the information asked for.

*Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Is it because he is implicated himself?

*Mr. BRYCE: That has nothing to do with it.

Roscrea Sub-Land Commission.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether at a recent sitting of the Sub-Land Commission at Roscrea, before Commissioners Tuckey and Baggot, the rents were raised in any cases on the estate of Miss Cecilia Griffiths; if so, will he give the names of the tenant or tenants, and state the amounts by which rents were increased over the valuation put upon the holdings by the landlord's valuer; and will he say whether any tenant has appealed against the decision of the Sub-Land Commission; and, if so, who, and on what grounds.

Mr. BRYCE: The Land Commission inform me that at the sitting of the Sub-Commission Court referred to rents were judicially fixed on the estate mentioned in the case of four tenants only. Appeals at the instance of both landlord and tenants are pending in all four cases. I have no further information in the matter.

Eviction Disturbances.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he could give any information as to very serious events which had occurred on Tuesday, and which were repeated yesterday, in connection with some evictions instituted by Lord Clanricarde at Loughrea.

Mr. BRYCE: I am sorry to say that there were serious disturbances in the town of Loughrea yesterday, arising out of the resistance offered to the carrying out of an eviction from a place of business—a store and shop. The eviction was completed as regards the store, but not as regards the shop. There were a good many stones thrown. Some of the police were hurt, although, I trust, not seriously, and windows were broken. Except that there is a certain amount of commotion in the town to-day I am not informed at this moment as to what has actually passed.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND asked whether, with reference to this eviction, Lord Clanricarde's agent had not declared in a published document that the person evicted was a tenant who had given him every satisfaction, but as secretary of the Loughrea branch of the United Irish League he begged to give him notice of eviction; whether in these circumstances the Government felt justified in spending large sums of the taxpayers' money in affording the assistance of the forces of the Crown to carry out these proceedings.

Mr. BRYCE: It is perfectly true, as far as my information goes, that a letter to that effect, and I think almost in those words, was written by Lord Clanricarde's agent to Mr. Martin Ward. I took the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown when I heard that this eviction was going to come off. I was informed by them—and I also read the cases on the subject—that it was the absolute duty of the Executive to give assistance in the case of these evictions. That appears to have been affirmed by the Court in two cases, and I am so advised. In the circumstances I consider that I had no option—no executive discretion whatever.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND gave notice to call further attention to the subject on the Motion for adjournment.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): How many police have been sent into Loughrea?

Mr. BRYCE said he believed that a hundred police had been sent.

Irish Post Office Doctors.

Captain CRAIG: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will consider the advisability of increasing the scale of payment to Poor Law medical officers attending Post Office officials in Ireland to a rate approximate to that which is paid in the case of attendance to members of the Royal Irish Constabulary; and also the question of eliminating from the duties consequent upon such attendance a great deal of the clerical work which at present presses on the Poor Law medical profession.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The scale of payment to Post Office medical officers is uniform throughout the United Kingdom and is believed to be sufficient.

Ireland and Tariff Reform.

MR. BARRIE: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the continued injury to the agricultural interests of Ireland, caused by the incidence of the fiscal system of Great Britain, he is prepared, on an early date after the holidays, to give facilities for the discussion of the subject.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): The hon. Member's Question is of a somewhat controversial character. As at present advised I am not prepared to assent to his assumption that injury to the agricultural interests of Ireland is caused by the incidence of the fiscal system of Great Britain. The hon. Member will therefore see that he cannot in reason ask me for facilities for the discussion of his conclusions.

MR. BARRIE: I will take the first possible opportunity of raising this question.

Unemployment Inquiry.

MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he will state to the House whether inquiries are still proceeding as to the means by which a larger number of the population may be attracted to and retained on the soil, and, if so, if the inquiry extends to woods and forests; and if he can state the results of such inquiries, and whether they afford any guidance to His Majesty's Government as to how best to amend the Unemployed Workmen Act.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes, Sir, inquiries are still proceeding into the various matters enumerated by the hon. Member, including woods and forests. Though I cannot state the results of these inquiries, I may inform him that they have been instrumental in throwing a good deal of light upon the difficult and complex question of the unemployed which His Majesty's Government have under their consideration.

County Court Reform.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if it is the intention of the Government to introduce this session, or in the immediate future, a Bill to deal with the questions relating to the jurisdiction and procedure of county courts in England and Wales; and whether or not on the principle of the County Courts (No. 2) Bill, 1905.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: There is little prospect of such a Bill being introduced this session. Whether it will be possible to introduce one in the immediate future, though not in this session, I am at present unable to say.

MR. NIELD: In view of the fact that it would be non-party and non-controversial in character, could the right hon. Gentleman not see his way to give some facilities for such a Bill?

SIR H CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not know who is to judge of a Bill being non-controversial. By very recent experience it would require some supreme authority to say where that term shall be applied.

Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked whether the Leader of the House, who had so far acceded to the request made to him the day before as to put the Motion for the adjournment in the second instead of the twentieth place among the orders of the day, could not see his way to follow the practice of recent years by not putting down either the Second Reading or Committee stage of a Bill first in order on the day on which the House rose for its holidays. Did not the right hon. Gentleman think that anything he desired—and the Opposition desired—in the way of speed in regard to the Police Commission Bill could be adequately obtained if it were taken as the first order on the Monday after the House reassembled? The other House would not meet until the day following, so that the Bill could not become law until some days after the House had met again. He reminded the right hon. Gentleman that though the Committee stage might be forced through the House that day, the Third Reading could not be taken except by leave of the House, and said that, although he could not answer for any hon. Members except those who sat on that side of the House above the gangway, he thought he could promise that no very great expenditure of time would be required on the Monday after the holidays for the two stages which, he imagined, would still remain to be taken.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am afraid we must look backwards as well as forwards. This Bill was introduced to meet a general demand and a particularly active demand from the friends of the right hon. Gentleman. This is the fullest possible form of inquiry that can be submitted to the House; but at the time I announced the course we were going to take, largely to please the right hon Gentleman's friends, I said it must be understood that the Bill would be introduced on the footing of the precedent of the Bill of last year, which was not opposed at any stage and which passed through the House without difficulty. This Bill has been opposed by the friends of the right hon. Gentleman at every stage on every day on which it was put down; and I understand that the right hon. Gentleman, who manages the business matters on the other side of the House, declared to my hon. friend the Patronage Secretary that he had no control over his friends to prevent them from pursuing this course. Then we come to last night, when not some obscure and independent friends of the right hon. Gentleman, but the right hon. Gentleman himself and his principal lieutenant or coadjutor took the leading part in deliberately preventing the progress of the Bill. That indicates a spirit towards the Bill that does not hold out much hope of a very amicable arrangement for the quiet and unobtrusive passage of the Bill on the first Monday after we meet again. I am afraid, therefore, I must adhere to the purpose of taking this stage first, which ought to have been taken easily last night.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman another Question, which I will endeavour to couch in a less controversial tone than the right hon. Gentleman adopted. I will ask nothing about the particular circumstances which, as the right hon. Gentleman knows, or ought to know, were the reason why the Bill was not passed in the half-hour last night which I think might have been sufficient; but I will ask whether the right hon. Gentleman's insinuation that my statement that I believed the Bill would not be received by any of my friends in a controversial spirit on the Monday after we meet—whether his insinuation that that statement is one which he cannot believe is an insinuation which he ought to make. The right hon. Gentleman's answer, if I rightly apprehend him, amounts to this—that although I made a promise on behalf of myself and my friends with regard to Monday week, he did not think that past events justified him in accepting that promise. I consider that is a most offensive insinuation. I never heard it made by the Leader of the House to the Leader of the Opposition before in my whole life. I have never heard it by one hon. Gentleman in this House to another. [An Hon. Member: What about 'impertinence'?] I will still ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, in these circumstances, he does not think he would be acting in the cause of general peace and harmony to meet the request which everybody will admit I have made in a most respectful and conciliatory spirit.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No doubt the right hon. Gentleman is respectful and conciliatory in his spirit just now, and I do not doubt he would himself be very willing to do his best to secure that the Bill should go through on Monday week without much difficulty; but, as I said when I first rose, we judge of the future a little by the past, and we have found again and again that there has not been that control by the right hon. Gentleman over the action of his followers which he expects to find himself able to exercise on Monday week; and last night, as I have said, he himself took a part in proceedings on the Bill which did not show any active desire to promote the progress of the measure.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman has made the statement that over and over again I have failed to carry out a pledge. ["No, no!"] I understood the right hon. Gentleman to say that over and over again my friends had so far declined to accept the advice I gave them as to destroy the arrangements made between the two sides of the House. [AN HON. MEMBER: That is another matter.] I ask the right hon. Gentleman to give one instance. He says there are many. I ask him for one.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: On more than one occasion there have been notices of opposition given which were in direct conflict with the desire, as we understood it, of the whole House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope the right hon. Gentleman will feel, as I am sure the House will feel, that there is a very great distinction between the statement he has now made and the other statement that I had given rise to expectations and had given advice to my friends which they refused to take. There is no such case, Sir. I desire to say nothing more at the present moment on this point; but may I, by way of personal explanation, read to the House what was said last night by the Patronage Secretary? I have the exact words in the report in *The Times*. The hon. Gentleman used these words—

> "Athough there was no distinct agreement with Members on that side of the House that this Bill should be regarded as a non-contentious measure, there was a general understanding throughout the whole House that it should be regarded as non-contentious, and be passed as soon as possible in order to set this Commission to work. The action of the right hon. Gentleman is, in my judgment, a breach of that understanding."

Now, Sir, in my view, putting aside altogether the ethics governing our conduct in this House, no more serious accusation could be made against an individual Member of this House—and it is more serious than ever when made against the Leader of a Party in this House—than that he has committed, in the words of the hon Gentleman, "a breach of an understanding." I venture to make the statement to-day quite distinctly, and I am prepared to defend it at the proper moment, that in the first place, had there been an understanding that the Bill was to be non-contentious, circumstances occurred in last night's sitting which would nullify it, and, in the second place, that there was no understanding of the kind referred to binding either myself or my friends.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey): I do not want to prolong this controversy. I only wish to say that I adhere to every word I said last night. I appeal to the House as a whole. There was a distinct general understanding that this Bill should be regarded as non-contentious, and that the Home Secretary should follow the precedent of the War Stores Commission Bill of last year—a Bill which passed through every stage one night after twelve o'clock. But this Bill has been opposed by hon. Members sitting behind the right hon. Gentleman at every stage, and when I remonstrated with my right hon. friend opposite as to the attitude of Gentlemen behind him, he told me that it was not the doing of the Front Bench, and that they had no control over Gentlemen behind them. When this Bill has been put down after midnight, and we have pleaded that it should be allowed to go through, we have been told by hon. Members opposite that it should be taken during Government time. It was taken during Government time last night and it was opposed by the Front Opposition Bench.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington): I think the House will allow me to say a few words.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): This is time wasted. We know the game.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): It is like a lot of schoolboys.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD: I have always been anxious that the Commission should be appointed, and the Patronage Secretary will allow that I saw him several times yesterday afternoon, and if he had been content to put this Bill down behind the motion for the holiday adjournment there would have been no opposition. I saw him again at twenty-five minutes past ten last night, when the Budget discussion came to an end, and we discussed what business should be taken. I told him then that I thought that in the thirty-five minutes that remained it might be possible to get the Bill through Committee and Third Reading, but that was on the distinct understanding that the Motion for the adjournment should be the first order to-day. Obviously I had to refer that agreement to my leaders, and I came into the House to do so. The only reason why the agreement was not carried out was the absence of the Home Secretary. A point of great importance was raised. The learned Solicitor-General did not satisfy those who raised it, and I think we have a right to ask that, when a Bill of this importance is brought forward, the Home Secretary, the Minister in charge of it, should be present, or the discussion should be adjourned.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY and other hon. Members rose together to continue the discussion.

*MR. SPEAKER: This discussion is becoming a debate.

[The discussion then closed.]

MR. KEIR HARDIE asked what action the Prime Minister intended to take to protect the right of private Members to discuss questions on the Motion for adjournment in the event of the time for that purpose being seriously encroached upon by debate on the first Order (the Metropolitan Police Commission Bill).

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I have no desire to curtail discussion at all, and, as for the Bill which is the first Order on the Paper, it would have passed long ago if it had not been for the discussion on giving it precedence.

MR. KEIR HARDIE pressed the Prime Minister to say what action he would take if discussion was prolonged on the first Order.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I have no expectation that the discussion on the first Order of the day will be prolonged. I see no reason why it should be. I do not think that in decency it ought to be prolonged. If it was prolonged so as to curtail the time for moving the adjournment the resources of civilisation would not be exhausted. I will then make the same Motion to-morrow instead of to-day.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the reason officially given last night for the absence of the Home Secretary was that the Government did not expect the Bill to come on?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I presume it was that the Government did not expect it to come on so soon.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It was not expected to be reached.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures:—Sir Henry Fowler; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Hooper.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

SETTLEMENT OF PAUPERS BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the Settlement of Paupers," presented by Mr. Staveley Hill; supported by Mr. Stuart-Wortley, Mr. Samuel Roberts, Mr. G. A. Gibbs, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Lane-Fox, Mr. A. E. W. Mason, Mr. Coates, Mr. H. D. McLaren, Mr. Warner, and Mr. Corrie Grant; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 19th, and to be printed. [Bill 246.]

BILLS OF EXCHANGE ACTS (1882) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend section eighty-two of The Bills of Exchange Act, 1882," presented by Mr. Attorney-General; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 12th, and to be printed. [Bill 247.]

NEW WRITS.

Ordered, That, in all cases where the seat of any Member has been declared void on the ground of Corrupt Practices or Illegal Practices, no Motion for the issue of a New Writ shall be made without two clear days' previous notice on the Notice Paper of the House, and that such Notice be considered before the Orders of the Day and Notices of Motion.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

METROPOLITAN POLICE (COMMISSION) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) said he thought that he ought to express to the House his regret that he was not present yesterday when this Bill was considered. It was in the nature of an accident, and was not due to any cause preventable by himself. He confessed that he had been placed somewhat off his guard, because he thought this measure was considered uncontroversial, no point having been brought to his notice to which exception was taken. When he introduced this Bill to the House he laid stress on the fact that a Bill to invest the South African War Stores Commission with statutory powers was allowed to go through practically unopposed, and if there was not an absolute condition there was at any rate an implied condition that the present Opposition would deal with this Bill as the late Opposition dealt with the War Stores Commission Bill. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham made some criticisms upon this measure last night, but he was not in his place now, and therefore he assumed that he did not think the point worth pressing. If the Indemnity Clause had been in the Bill no doubt the hon. Member for Blackpool would have at once told him that under it they were proposing to shelter infamous proceedings.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said that the right hon. Gentleman had quite misunderstood his intention.

Mr. GLADSTONE said he was sorry if he had misunderstood the hon. Member, but he was afraid he had given him ample opportunity for doing so. If hon. Gentlemen desired to see the Indemnity Clause in the present Bill the Government had no objection.

Sir E. CARSON (Dublin University) said he had put down an Amendment with a view to asking a Question, but if the right hon. Gentleman was going to insert the Indemnity Clause he would not take up any more time.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Sir E. Carson then moved the following new clause—

> "The Commissioners shall have the same power, and be under obligation to grant certificates of indemnity to witnesses as is contained in the 5 Edward 7, c. 7, s. 2."—(*Sir E. Carson*).

Question proposed, "That this clause be now read a second time."

Mr. ASQUITH suggested that it would be more convenient to have the exact words of the Indemnity Clause with the omission of the words "Including proceedings by court-martial."

Sir E. CARSON said he would accept the suggestion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and asked leave to withdraw his Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

A new Clause, in the form suggested by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was read a second time, and added to the Bill.

Bill reported

Mr. GLADSTONE expressed the hope that the Bill would be allowed to pass through the Report stage now.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I entirely endorse that appeal. I do not know whether it would be in Order now to read the Bill a third time also, but if it is, I think it should be done.

***Mr. SPEAKER**: By the general agreement of the House I think it can be done.

Bill, as amended, considered; read the third time, and passed.

ADJOURNMENT (WHITSUNTIDE).

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House at its rising this day do adjourn until Thursday, the 7th June."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said there were one or two points which he wished to raise before the House adjourned for the holidays. The first was with reference to the policy of putting down Bills for Second Reading, or for the Committee stage, on the day on which the House was to rise for the holidays. In recent years, he believed, there had been Bills introduced under the ten minutes rule on the day the House was to adjourn, but he could not imagine a worse precedent than that which had been set this afternoon—that of putting down before the Motion for the adjournment Bills in regard to which they could not tell whether they would turn out controversial or not, and thus curtailing the time available for the general discussion, which was one of the most valuable privileges of the House. The whole course and trend of House of Commons rules in recent years had been in the direction of curtailing liberties previously enjoyed by private Members; certainly this had taken place, and he believed it had been necessary. The happy days when a Member was free to make a speech in presenting a petition, or to deal with important subjects on a question of snuffing candles, had long gone by, and really there only remained these two or three occasions in the whole session when a Member could, untrammelled, discuss any question he liked. He pressed on the Government and the House that this liberty, which did no harm, and did not interfere with the conduct of public business, should be left untouched by His Majesty's present advisers. He was surprised at the suggestion that a Bill should be taken before the House came to the question of adjournment. He did not wish to reopen the controversy that arose at Question time, or to say anything that would embitter discussion; but was it not obvious that all that had been done that day might have been done the day before if Members of the Government then present had adopted the tone of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill? It would have been a happy thing for the House if that had occurred, if for no other reason than that it would have prevented the Patronage Secretary from using language which was wholly unjustified, and which he would have thought any man in the House [Cries of "Oh, oh," "Order"]—he was perfectly in order—any man in the House would have rejoiced to have the chance of explaining or withdrawing. The hon. Gentleman had done neither. He did not feel much the worse for it, but he did think worse of the hon. Gentleman himself. [Cries of "Oh, oh," "Order."]

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs) reminded the right hon. Gentleman that his hon. friend rose to make a further statement to the House upon his position—to which he adhered entirely—but he was stopped as being out of order.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. Gentleman was out of order then, but he would be in order now. If the hon. Gentleman desired to qualify or withdraw anything he had said, or to re-enforce it, he would be at liberty to do so later in the debate, but that was his affair. He had done all he could to carry on what used to be the practice of the House, and, if he had failed, the failure was not at his expense, but at that of others who might have set the whole matter right with a few simple words. But this did not touch the broad question of the course the Government had chosen to pursue. Another matter of a different character was of even more importance from the point of view of the day-to-day working of the Parliamentary system. He was unable to be present when the new rule was passed for abolishing an interval for dinner, and he would not now discuss it, but there was one aspect of it to be taken into account. The rule, passed while he was Leader of the House, allowing an interval of an hour and a half—he would not defend the rule, though there was much to be said for it—made meeting at an earlier hour necessary; but not only had the Government gone beyond the rule recommended by their own Committee—of course, a Government was not bound by such a recommendation—but the new rule did throw a heavy burden on the House and interfered with the conduct of public affairs. Let them take, for instance, the Education Bill—a difficult and controversial Bill, which like all such Bills could only be properly steered with one man in charge of it. Delegation up to a certain point was no doubt possible, but the amount of delegation was strictly limited, and the Minister in charge must be present, if possible, during the discussion of all important Amendments. He did not believe there was a more zealous or hard-working Member of the Administration than the Minister for Education. He had sat in the House hour after hour with all the attentive zeal that could have been expected from him; but all men must dine—[AN HON. MEMBER: Why?]—even Ministers must dine—and it might be that a Minister, under his impression as to the course of business, might prolong his dinner to an inconvenient length; but how was it possible either for the Minister, or those who took a keen interest in a measure, to be present at all important phases of a debate if literally no interval at all was allowed for obtaining bodily sustenance? He pressed upon the Prime Minister that he should modify the severity of the present regulation [Cries of "No."] Hon. Gentleman who said "No" probably had not had to conduct a difficult Bill through the House. The strain and labour was prodigious, and if in addition to the inevitable strain the unfortunate Minister in charge, and, to a lesser degree, those who held a watching brief in Opposition, had to carry on their anxious work with no fixed hour for a hasty meal, much would be done to break down the health of those chiefly concerned and to militate against effective work in the House. He did not ask the Government to reverse the policy of their rule or to revert to the double sitting with one and a half hour's interval, but he asked them to go back to the older system, or something resembling it. Their Committee, if he remembered rightly, recommended a fixed interval of half an hour during which those who were obliged to be in attendance in the work of the House could get a hasty, but, no doubt, adequate meal. He had frequently found that the opposition to the dinner hour came from Gentlemen who themselves invariably went home to dinner and did not come back till it suited them. He would earnestly press the Government in their own interest and that of the House, in the first place, to form in their own mind a complete scheme of the new rules by which they desired the proceedings of the House to be governed, and, in the second place, to take the House into their confidence as to what their scheme was. When the late Government endeavoured to make certain changes, most of which he imagined would remain a permanent part of the Parliamentary machinery, they laid the whole scheme before the House and had a Second Reading discussion upon it. Only in that way could they see the mutual relations of the various parts of any scheme. Every proposition could not be considered in isolation. They could not deal with one method of shortening their labours without considering how it affected the whole business of the House. They were dealing with a very complicated instrument, and they ought to know whence they came and whither they went, and what the whole idea of the Government was in modifying the Standing Orders. He had listened to the statement of the Secretary of State for War about the supposed reduction in the Artillery with very great pleasure. He was very glad that the right hon. Gentleman was able to give an absolute contradiction to the unauthorised rumour. Whatever might be said about the reduction of large parts of our Army system, he earnestly hoped there would be no reduction in any part of the system which could not be rapidly reversed. They might drill a man and make him a competent soldier certainly in two years. They could not get an efficient Artillery in two years. It could not be done. Like the staff and the regimental officers, the Artillery could not be improvised, could not be made straight off. Therefore, any reduction in this costly but also necessary element in our war system must be made in connection with the whole scheme of the Army, including the Militia and the Volunteers, and the whole of the organised military forces. Indeed, he would rather encourage the Secretary for War in his desire not to embark on any new scheme until he had had a much longer period for thinking it out, and, above all, not to attempt to touch by way of reduction any branch of the service which, if they destroyed, they could not renew except under long years of strenuous work and great expenditure, and which, therefore, would not be renewed until the necessity arose; and when the necessity arose it would probably be too late. He did not give the Government this warning in any controversial spirit. His right hon. friend knew how deeply he felt upon the subject of the Army and the necessity of keeping up adequate Regular forces, if our diplomacy was to be successful and peaceful. He hoped that any scheme of Army reform which the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for War or his advisers projected would be maturely considered and that the House should have full opportunity of discussing it in all its bearings before steps were taken which could never be subsequently recalled.

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich): Say a word for the unemployed while you are up.

*Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that the Government of which he was a Member did endeavour to do something for the unemployed; and he hoped the hon. Gentleman would press on his successors to do something more.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he was glad to acknowledge that the tone of the right hon. Gentleman's comments upon the recent changes in the rules of the House left nothing to be desired. The right hon. Gentleman was a great master of the subject; no one was better acquainted with the history of it; and it was with much regret they found themselves without the advantage of the presence and assistance of the right hon. Gentleman when the matter was under review a few weeks ago. They regretted his absence at that time and the cause of it. With regard to the question of the dinner hour, he hoped he did not come under the animadversion which the right hon. Gentleman passed upon some Members of the House who were always willing to give away the liberty of others while securing a large liberty for themselves, who, like the celebrated captain—

> "Fled full soon on the First of June,
> And bade the rest keep fighting."

He admitted that the abolition of the dinner hour was a rather severe rule. Of course, if it was found to be too severe it would be easy to introduce a little relaxation, but in the meantime, he thought, if they could, it was well to adhere to the uninterrupted sitting. The bulk of ordinary Members could adjust the yoke to their neck, but he admitted that the weak point in the arrangement was the hardship imposed on the Minister in charge of a Bill, who must remain in his place. He thought his right hon friend the Minister for Education was looking rather pale from lack of proper refreshment while the Education Bill was under consideration. He thought they had better leave the matter where it was, but if human nature could not stand the strain then they could make some slight modification in the rule. It was said that the whole scheme should be in possession of the House, but he did not quite see that. It was true that there were certain rules which were dependent upon certain other rules, but they could be adapted to each other without any such great alteration as was asked for. One principle must be accepted if this House was to do the work which it was asked to undertake, and that was that more work should be done by Committees and that less should be done by the House itself. He believed that the present system was not the best that could be arranged, and involved a great waste of power. That conclusion was forced upon them when they saw the House sitting in Committee on a comparatively unimportant Bill and drawing upon that time which might be better employed upon other subjects. He thought that a movement of that kind would be most desirable and the system prevailed in other countries. He thought that the energies of the House itself sitting as a House should be reserved for the consideration of great questions of public policy. The consideration of Bills in Committee of the Whole House was not of immemorial usage. On the contrary, it came at a later period. It was a waste of power to set the Whole House sitting in Committee to the consideration of the details of comparatively unimportant Bills. The House should confine itself to the great principles which should underlie legislation, leaving the details of such legislation to Committees sitting upstairs. It was with that object in view that the Government had submitted to the Procedure Committee certain proposals for increasing the numberof Standing Committees and giving larger powers to their chairmen. That, he thought, was a matter which the House could deal with separately, and the House would have the opportunity of considering it after the Whitsuntide holiday. Another important point was the manner of taking divisions. His right hon. friend the First Commissioner of Works had formed a plan for accelerating divisions, and was now ready to explain it to the House.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) asked whether the Secretary for War intended to give an answer to the Question of the Leader of the Opposition as to his scheme of Army reform.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said his right hon. friend the Secretary for War had left the House, thinking that it was not necessary that he should say anything, as the Leader of the Opposition had expressed satisfaction with the Answer he had given to a Question on the subject. But opportunity would be afforded for raising the subject next week on the War Office Vote.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (MR. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale) said he was directed a short time ago by the Cabinet to devise some new method of taking divisions. He approached the subject with three principal objects in view—the shortening of the time; the avoidance of structural alterations, as far as possible; and the *minimum* of departure from the traditional method of dividing the House. He had a great antipathy to the use of any mechanical contrivance. He had an equal antipathy to any approach to secrecy in taking the votes of the House. The whole basis of his scheme was that the process of the voting should begin from the time that the question was put from the Chair the second time, and that during the whole of the division the Chamber should remain open. When a division was challenged the Speaker, instead of saying, as at present, "Strangers will withdraw," would say, "Clear the lobby." Strangers would not be turned out of the seats under the gallery; but the lobby outside would be cleared of strangers. After the lapse of two minutes the Speaker would put the Question the second time, naming the tellers, and the counting would immediately commence. There would be another interval of four minutes, when by direction of the Speaker the doors giving access to the two lobbies would be locked. That meant that all the Members taking part in a division would have found their way into the lobbies in six minutes. In each lobby there would be three recording clerks instead of two, so that the names of Members voting would be taken more quickly and there would be a more rapid stream of Members towards the tellers who counted them as they passed through the exit doors. That was the whole process, which would be tried, experimentally, for a few weeks after Whitsuntide. It was quite clear that under the scheme there was the possibility of what he would call "plural voting." A Member could vote in his own name both "Aye" and "No" in the same division. But that would indicate a state of mind which he hoped would be as uncommon as it was undesirable. It was clear that a Member could not vote twice in his own name, but it would be possible, he admitted, for him to vote once in his own name and once in the name of some other hon. Member. That, however, would be such a grave fraud and such a breach of the honourable obligations that existed between Members, that he could not suppose that such a breach of Parliamentary law would happen. There was one other obvious difficulty, which was that while there would be no difficulty in the exit of Members from the "No" lobby, because the door behind Mr. Speaker's chair, which would give access to the library without hon. Members crossing the floor of the House, would remain open, the exit from the "Aye" lobby might become somewhat congested by the fact that those who were leaving would come into contact with the stream of Members coming in. The exit would not be so congested as at present, because there would be the interval of six minutes instead of two in which Members could find their way to the House. In the event of serious inconvenience being felt he would suggest that hon. Members leaving the "Aye" lobby should turn with the incoming stream into the House until the congestion had been relieved. He saw a way of obviating that congestion, but not before the Autumn recess. It had for a long time been regarded as impossible to open a door into the lobby near the Post Office, but he had found a way in which that could be done. He would abolish the Peers' staircase to the gallery and ask the Peers to share with hon. Members a staircase from the top of which a door would open into their gallery. Having abolished the Peers' staircase a direct exit from the "Aye" lobby into the lobby would be made through the new service door he proposed to drive at that point. At the same time he would be able to make a much needed improvement in the quarters of the telegraphic staff.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What would be the exact saving of time?

MR. HARCOURT said he would not like to prophecy what the actual saving would be, but there would be a great saving to individual Members. No doors would ever be locked in the House, except, for the first two minutes interval, the tellers' doors and after six minutes the four doors leading from the House to the lobby. All the other doors would remain open. He asked the House when they resumed after the Whitsuntide recess to give this system a fair, a friendly trial, and if it did not prove the success he hoped, he could assure the House that no pride on his part would prevent him from seeking some other solution. He thought it right to take this opportunity of thanking all the officials of the House and expressing his appreciation for their kindly and courteous asssistance.

*MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars) said he rose to call attention to a question of urgent and public importance, namely, the question of unemployment of large numbers of the industrial population throughout the length and breadth of the land. He made no complaint of the President of the Local Government Board in his personal capacity. His complaint was that the right hon. Gentleman's promise to introduce a Bill to deal with this question had not been fulfilled. Four months had passed since the pledge was given, and in spite of the utterances of the right hon. Gentleman he ventured to say, allowing for the opening up of the weather, which always conduced to greater employment, the question of the unemployed was just as acute now as it was four months ago. The right hon. Gentleman had been good enough to say a Bill would be introduced this session. So far as it went there could be no complaint with that, but they wanted some definite assurance that that Bill would not only be introduced but introduced in sufficient time to enable time to be given for its consideration, so that it could be made effective and serviceable for dealing with the distress which many of them believed would be upon us this next winter. In the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman himself, and in the opinion of all reasonably minded men and women throughout the country, the Act of last year greatly needed amendment. He was well within the mark when he said that about eight times as many men had registered their names in books provided for that purpose as had been found work. The Act did not, either, in an effective way embody the principle of national as against local responsibility and control in regard to this matter. He submitted that large industrial centres like Leeds and Glasgow, which were steeped in poverty and submerged with municipal burdens of all sorts, were not in a position to deal effectively with their many unemployed and should not be asked to deal with them. As a plea for the Bill's not being introduced they were told there was no hurry; that the number of unemployed was less. Only to-day they had heard that the number of paupers in a certain district was less than last year. Since he had taken an interest in political matters he had become accustomed to hear these optimistic stories from right hon. Gentlemen on the Treasury Bench, but he was afraid they were not true. Had it been so the pauper would ere now have ceased from troubling and the wicked unemployed agitator been at rest. He admitted that unemployment was less at the present moment than it had been; that the staple trades were fairly prosperous. But there was one aspect of this question which had not been given the attention it deserved, namely, that the economic conditions of the present time tended to throw out large masses of men not affected by the figures at all. Large numbers of men were being thrown off the land by the landlords, and there were other large unorganised bodies of people to whom it was poor comfort to be told that there was plenty of work in the staple trades and that therefore they ought to be content. Attention had been called to the fact that a very large demonstration of workmen promenaded the streets recently and passed certain resolutions in Hyde Park. But there was more remarkable evidence as to the number of unemployed in the Board of Trade figures compiled from the returns of the Trade Unions. They showed that the unemployed were 4 per cent. of the industrial population. That meant that out of an industrial population of 10,000,000, 400,000 were unable to find work. The calculation was based on returns from skilled trades, many of which protected themselves. Probably the actual number of unemployed at the present moment in this country was nearly double 400,000. He would not say they were all able to work or willing to work, but, at all events, there were 800,000 people who might probably be trained to work if the Local Government Board and the other responsible departments would exert their efforts in that direction. Some of the unemployed he admitted were unemployable — to the greater discredit of Governments, Liberal and Tory, who up to now had actually acquiesced in a condition of things by which large masses of people had been subject to that process of deterioration which came from idleness. Recognising that some of them might be unemployable, the Labour Party asked the Government to take steps to reclaim them, if possible; and, above all, to stop the draining of the country districts, and to stop many of those other processes at work which tended to create large masses of helpless and hopeless people. He and other hon. Members sitting near him were bombarded from day to day by letters from their constituents and from all sorts of societies and semi-public bodies urging them to take action in this matter. As to the remedies the Labour Party had to propose, he quite apprehended that they might have laid themselves open to the charge of having urged the Government to do something whilst they themselves were not prepared to point out what that something should be. He would first remind the House that they were not yet in office. If they were he thought they would have shown a little more alacrity in tackling the matter, whatever their remedies might be. But he quite admitted that if they were going to criticise the Government for inaction they ought to throw out some idea at least as to the steps that were necessary to be taken. He would submit to the President of the Local Government Board that he should call a conference of all those Governmental authorities that could contribute anything in a direct way to the solution of this problem. There were the bodies concerned with the questions of re-afforestation, erosion of the sea-coast, and canals. There was also an authority which had been entrusted with some power in regard to afforestation. If the right hon. Gentleman would call a conference of all those authorities and suggest any practical step as a result, it would do something to allay public anxiety and satisfy some who thought that everything was not being done towards a solution of this matter that ought to be done. Then there was the Amendment of the Act of last year. He did not wish to hold back from the Leader of the Opposition and the late Government all the credit due to them for having passed that Act. Whatever might be the defects of its machinery, it recognised for the first time

Governmental responsibility for an acute social problem. The Labour Party desired that that Act should be amended. They were willing to take the Act with all its defects as the basis upon which something better and more substantial could be built. It was a mere skeleton. Let them put flesh and blood upon it. For instance, they asked that the power originally in the Bill to enable local authorities to pay wages out of public funds should be re-inserted. Some said that if that were done greater evils would accrue than those they dealt with. That was a very abstruse economic consideration. A great deal more might be said for than against it. Thousands in West Ham and other places were starving for want of employment, and that being so, he was quite willing to allow the working out of the policy of saddling the local authorities with the burden of paying wages out of local rates to be settled by the logic of events. The question of unemployment, however, was far too large to be dealt with adequately by the local authorities. It was a problem which West Ham, for instance, had to deal with because it was so close to London. Its close proximity to London attracted to it large numbers of people from the agricultural districts, and although London benefited as the result, it contributed nothing out of its immense resources and wealth to help West Ham as it ought to do. This question was not merely one for local treatment, but also one for the Government. He put in a plea in the hope that something might be done in time for next winter. He knew it was a big subject, and that the Government had immense difficulties to face. That was no reason why the subject should not be tackled. He appealed, then, to the President of the Local Government Board not to have regard to improved conditions only as affording a reason for delay, but to have regard to that fact as giving him a period of comparative calm in which he could deal with this matter, and not to leave it, as it had been left so often before, until acute crises were forced upon them. Let the right hon. Gentleman deal with the matter at the present time, when the prosperity of the staple trades of the country was such that help and hope could be given to many thousands of their poverty-stricken fellow citizens outside this House.

Mr. WALTERS (Sheffield, Brightside) did not think that a partial or even a substantial revival of trade would really effectively deal with the phase of this question which was the most difficult one for local authorities. The real problem consisted in the undue proportion of unskilled workmen. During the acute depression of 1904 something like 85 per cent. of the unemployed workmen were unskilled. At Leicester to-day they were working full time and even overtime. The manufacturers were so busy that they could not execute orders. And yet at the same time the Leicester workhouse was overcrowded with men who were out of employment, and there were hundreds, almost thousands, in Leicester who were unable to obtain employment. What was the reason of this? It was because a very large proportion of those people were labourers. They were not shoemakers or hosiery makers. There was an immense number of men in that city who had not been trained to any industry, and he believed they would find that to be the case in every large town. The fact was that our industries had been passing through a transition stage. We had been putting down machinery and thus reducing the number of unskilled men needed. And we were contributing to that difficulty at the other end of the scale. We were turning out tens of thousands of boys from the elementary schools with a smattering of more or less useless information, who became errand boys, and then casual labourers, and finally drifted into the ranks of the unskilled and unemployable workmen. However great might be the revival of our staple industries, the problem of the employment of the unskilled would become more serious year by year. He believed we should have to return to the system of apprenticeship and entirely revise our elementary school methods by making the local education authorities and the State responsible for the apprenticeship of every boy to a trade and turning him out at eighteen or nineteen years of age thoroughly equipped to take his place in the ranks of industry.

In that way a vast mass of unskilled and unproductive workmen would be removed and replaced by competent skilled workmen able to take their place in the industrial development of the country. They would never solve this question if they left it to the local authorities. It was no solution to say, "There are so many thousand labourers unable to find employment; you must find them temporary relief works." They might raise subscriptions and be permitted by law to spend money out of the local rates in order to find temporary employment, but the following year the problem would be just as acute. Therefore they must not approach this question with mere palliatives, but must attempt to deal with it in an effective manner. They would have to depart from their recognised economic laws and pay a large sum of money for the neglect of former years. During the transition of industry and the displacement of labour by machinery and from other causes they had created a large class of unemployed, and they were now paying the penalty for breaking nature's laws. They had in the past been neglecting the boys and girls and the men and women of this country, and the sooner they faced the problem the better. They would have to put aside temporarily their sound economic doctrines and be prepared out of the National Exchequer to provide the money necessary for the purpose of putting an end to all this misery and suffering. It would be far more humane to take these thousands of unskilled workmen, who were constantly tramping from town to city and from city to town in the vain effort to find employment, to Salisbury Plain and shoot them rather than allow the present system to continue. If Parliament was not prepared to do that then they must intervene and deal with them and try to find them employment. Some argued that they should be put upon the land. He had himself for twenty-five years been associated with the land as a practical agriculturist, and therefore he did not take such a glowing and optimistic view as some people. Although he did not think if they took 1,000 artisans from Leicester, Sheffield, or London, and put them on the land that the venture would make a profit or even pay, they could at least turn those men from unemployable shattered bits of humanity into men, by the expenditure of money and employing them on the land. In that way they would be able to build up their manhood, restore their physical and moral vigour, and thus give them a chance of once more getting back into the ordinary ranks of industry. They had a great problem to face and they must face it courageously and bravely. They must realise that they had made colossal blunders in the past, and they were entitled to ask the Liberal Government to break away from their traditional practice in this matter and to spend a few millions on creating men and women out of the shattered hulks of humanity. They were entitled to expect that this Government would have the courage, enterprise, sagacity and determination to deal with this most serious state of things, under which thousands and tens of thousands of men and women were living in poverty, misery and wretchedness, and do something to work out for them a real social salvation.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.) said they were all very much surprised that the Government had not thought it worth while to introduce a Bill dealing with the unemployed problem. Why was it that the Chief Secretary for Ireland could get £4,250,000 for building 25,000 cottages for Irish labourers, while the President of the Local Government Board could get nothing for the unemployed? A good deal of discussion had taken place about the number of men out of employment. In his own district a committee had been established for a long time, and there were now 4,782 men on the unemployed register. In reply to a question the President of the Local Government Board had stated that there were 4,000 less paupers in West Ham than there were twelve months ago. He would give the House some figures he had been furnished with by the secretary to the board of guardians. For the year ending March, 1904, the number of poor people relieved in West Ham were in-door 3,584, out-door 11,132; for 1905, in-door 3,692, out-door 15,840; and for 1906, in-door 3,830, out-door 17,929, showing an increase of 6,000 over the number in 1904. Those were the figures which had been given to him by the secretary to the West Ham Union. He did not know where the President of the Local Government Board got his figures from.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): From the same source.

MR. THORNE: When?

*MR. BURNS: Within the last ten days.

MR. THORNE said that that seemed somewhat singular. During the last year the municipality had absolutely refused to do anything for the unemployed. The amount spent in 1902–3 to relieve the unemployed before the Act was passed was £22,202, in 1903–4 £4,942, 1904–5 £22,412, and 1905–6 under the Act £5,645, making a total in four years of £55,201. That proved what a tremendous number of men were out of employment in West Ham through no fault of their own. At the two Thames iron works, one of which was in West Ham and the other in Greenwich, less than 1,000 men were now employed, although when in full swing the works employed 4,000. The President of the Local Government Board had said that the building trade was improving. It might be quite true that the painting trade had improved during the last two months, but it was only temporary. He thought the Government ought to do something immediately to relieve the misery and suffering which existed in all the large industrial centres. The President of the Local Government Board was absolutely opposed to farm colonies, although the colony they had adopted in West Ham had built up a large number of men. Something would have to be done to meet the immense displacement of labour due to the introduction of scientific methods in all the great industries. The question would have to be tackled, and unless the Government grappled with it the people would have to grapple with it themselves. As the late Prime Minister had said, there was a limit to human endurance; as far as he was concerned he was willing, if the Government did not do anything, to advise the unemployed to take the line of action suggested by the President of the Local Government Board in 1886—namely, to go and help themselves. The Government in 1886 absolutely refused to do anything for the unemployed until that happened. If a few windows were broken no doubt there would be more done, and the Government would recognise that it was their duty to do something on behalf of the people who were starving throughout the country. He hoped the Government would introduce their Bill at the earliest possible date, because, unless they did so and gave it every possible facility, there was no chance of its being passed this session, and when the winter came round the localities would not be able to deal with the question at all. A circular, dated May 26th, had been sent out by the Local Government Board to the local authorities asking for information in regard to the work of the Distress Committees. The secretary of one of the Distress Committees had shown him a copy of it this morning. That circular called for returns to be made to the Local Government Board by June 9th, but it was impossible for the local authorities in two weeks to tabulate all the information which was asked. He thought that the circular had been sent out weeks ago, but nothing appeared to have been done until a little stir took place recently in regard to the unemployed.

MR. A. DEWAR (Edinburgh, S.) said his hon. friend behind him had a thorough grasp of this subject, and he had given him some real light in regard to it. He doubted whether his hon. friend had given sufficient importance to the land question in relation to the problem of the unemployed. He himself regarded land monopoly as largely responsible for the unemployed condition of labour in this country. To the freedom of land, he thought, they must ultimately look for relief. He asked the House to consider where men went to escape from the poverty of our well-organised country, with its enormous wealth, palaces, churches and schools. Men turned their backs on the poverty here and went right away to the Far West. If one chanced to visit a community of that description two conditions would be found—land was cheap and labour was dear. Land might be had for nothing, and labour could not be had for love or money. Away in the Far West if a man desired to have his boots blacked he must do it himself. It was in this country, where land was retailed at so much per square yard or square foot, that unemployed was found. The poorer the population the dearer the land, and the more acute the unemployed problem. His hon. friend doubted whether the putting of the people back on the land would cure the evil. He himself agreed that at this time of day it would probably be difficult to get them back on the land, but if they were put back he thought there was sufficient evidence to show that it would largely settle this problem. In February, 1905, the then Colonial Secretary commissioned Mr. Rider Haggard to go to America to inquire into the condition of the Salvation Army colonists in Colorado. He was struck by the facts contained in Mr. Haggard's report. The Salvation Army, he reported, about seven years ago purchased two large estates of several thousand acres; they put on these estates in small holdings, not agriculturists, not men with a little wealth, not men accustomed even to the tilling of the soil necessarily, but unemployed and penniless people who were found in the slums of large towns. The Salvation Army gave them land at £20 an acre repayable at £1 per year; they gave these people implements and stock, the price of which was spread over a period of five years. Mr. Rider Haggard reported that he interviewed every one of these colonists and he gave an account of their income. He also reported that he examined the Salvation Army books, and that he found that on the average the settlers were worth sums varying from £200 to £400. That money had been made since they settled there, and they had over and above discharged their obligations to the Salvation Army and others.

Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster): In a protected country.

Mr. A. DEWAR: The report reads like a fairy tale, and I am not surprised that the hon. Gentleman should express surprise.

Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS: What I did say was that it is in a protected country.

Mr. A. DEWAR said he was obliged to the hon. Gentleman for the interruption. He would deal in a moment with the question of protection. In the meantime his point was that these people who went out in a state of destitution had, according to Mr. Haggard's report, succeeded in these holdings. The hon. Member opposite said that that was in a protected country. He would give an illustration in a non-protected country. It occurred to the present Secretary for Scotland that it was strange that Denmark should be agriculturally so much more prosperous than Scotland. Denmark, as the hon. Member knew, so far as agriculture was concerned, was an absolutely free trade country. It had half the area and half the population of Scotland, and its climate was not so good as that of Scotland, and yet while the agriculturists of Denmark were prosperous, those of Scotland were not, or, at all events, not so prosperous as they would like to be, though they regarded themselves as quite equal to the Danes. The Secretary for Scotland sent a deputation to Denmark, composed not of ardent land reformers, but of farmers, landlords and factors—quite a representative body. The deputation reported that rather less than eighty years ago, Denmark was in the condition Scotland was in now. High rents and low prices, and migration from the country to the towns so alarmed statesmen that they started legislation for the purpose of bringing the people back to the country, and small holdings were set up. The result was that most of the farmers were absolutely prosperous, they owned their own holdings, and they sent over to this country every year £17,000,000 worth of butter, bacon, and eggs. There were 7,000,000 acres of land lying derelict in this country. Protection could not be credited with the prosperity of Denmark. Surely it must be security of tenure. He knew that the cry "Back to the land" came loudest from the owners of derelict farms. But the question was—On what terms? Were people to be asked to go back to the land so that in times of prosperity the rent went up, and in times of prosperity it did not come down? That was the record of the past. There was no hope of getting the people back to the land so long as that system obtained. The position of the agricultural labourer in this country did not compare favourably with that of the labourer in Denmark, or of the Salvation Army colonist in America. The best he could hope for was that he might be able to save enough to pay his doctor's bill. He knew that the President of the Local Government Board did not require any advice or stimulus in this matter. He hoped and believed that the right hon. Gentleman would not only apply the much needed palliative recommended by the hon. Member for South West Ham, but that he would go to the root of the matter, which, in his opinion, was the land.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) expressed his sympathy with the speech of the hon. Member for South Edinburgh, and also with that of the hon. Member for the Brightside Division. He was certain that if only a larger proportion of our youth learned a trade under the old apprenticeship system, one inevitable outcome would be an almost immediate reduction of the hours of labour to eight per day. That itself would have considerable effect on the unemployed question. Now, as to the general question. There was a general assumption that because trade was improving there was no great urgency for dealing with the unemployed difficulty. But according to the returns published recently the number of skilled workers who were receiving assistance was 3·8 per cent., which meant that at the very lowest average 5 per cent. of the workers of the country were out of employment; and that 5 per cent. represented a total of not less than 500,000 workers, to whom ought to be added the wives and children and relatives dependent on them. Therefore it was a safe assumption that, despite the improvement in trade, 1,250,000 or 1,500,000 of the population were suffering poverty and hunger, and in some cases were being driven to suicide solely for lack of an opportunity of working for their living. That would appear to justify prompt action on the part of the Government. A Bill had been promised for dealing with the matter, and he thought that those who were interested in this question were justified in complaining that this Bill, which was so urgently required, was apparently to be postponed until the dregs of the session had been reached. If a choice had to be made between the Plural Voting Bill and a Bill to amend the Unemployed Act, surely the Unemployed Bill should obtain precedence, but such had not been the case. On April 11th the President of the Local Government Board stated that one reason why the Bill had not yet been introduced was that he had asked for reports from the various distress Committees, and until these had been returned he could not take action. The earliest reference he could find in the minutes of the Central Distress Committee for London of any such report having been asked for was May 11th, a month after the statement was made that the reports had been asked for. The Local Government Board seemed to be pursuing a dilatory course in obtaining the information which was so necessary to enable them effectively to amend the existing Act. The right hon. Gentleman also stated in April that out of £62,000 received by the Central body they had £22,000 in hand, and the organisation was blamed for holding it back. Inquiry had shown him that every penny of that sum had been earmarked for works already in hand, and therefore it was not true to say that the central body had been neglectful of its duties. He made two suggestions as to remedies. He found, from returns received from eight of the large centres of population in England, including London, that out of 49,625 persons after the Unemployment Act of last session was passed, who registered themselves asking for employment, work was found for only 8,655. Only about one in every six persons applying for work could be set to work owing to the limited financial resources at the disposal of the Distress Committees. His suggestion was that, first of all, a very short Bill—a Bill practically of one clause—should be introduced immediately to widen the powers of the local authorities, to try experiments—not to tie them to any one method, but to any scheme which obtained the approval of the Local Government Board in dealing with this question of the unemployed. The present power was inadequate. It was tinkering with a question of the gravest difficulty. If the Government were really anxious to do something for the most unfortunate class in the community—the strong and able-bodied men who were denied the chance of working for their living—now was their opportunity. Let the Chancellor of the Exchequer set aside £1,000,000 for the purpose of helping the local authorities generally to deal with the unemployment problem, That required no Act of Parliament. It was a matter entirely and absolutely under the control of the Government. Let them devise a scheme to enable the local authorities to carry out experiments other than those which they were now doing. The claims of the unemployed were not so clamant during the summer months as in the cold, dark days of winter: but he was sure he was practically interpreting the general feeling of the House when he said that the Government would be failing in their duty if they allowed this opportunity to slip past without providing machinery which would enable the local authorities to deal with the unemployed difficulty. There were tens of thousands of sturdy fellows, mostly unskilled labourers, but who had fought their country's battles, who were trudging the streets begging for employment. They had a new Government, a reformed Government and a Liberal Government, and the country would judge harshly of it unless these claims were attended to. He hoped, as one outcome of this discussion, they should have an assurance from the President of the Local Government Board that more energy would be put into his Department in order to find a remedy for this problem, and that something practical would be done in the way of finance, and in appointing District Committees to find work for the unemployed.

*Mr. HORRIDGE (Manchester, E.) said he did not rise for the purpose of making a speech of any length, but he wished to add his voice to that of others in order to impress upon the Government the desire which was felt not only upon the benches opposite but upon the Ministerial Benches, that they should tackle this question, which in his judgment was the greatest problem before the country. There were always from 3 to 6 per cent. of our working men unemployed even according to trade union statistics, and these did not represent the real amount of unemployment, because over and beyond there was the unskilled and unorganised labour. In East Manchester, the winter before last, there were hundreds of men walking about who would rather starve than ask for Poor Law assistance. The ex-Prime Minister always paid the greatest attention to this question, but the Bill passed by the late Government wanted vitality put into it. It was only a skeleton that provided machinery for dealing with the unemployed. What the present Government had to do was to provide the funds to make it a real, working, living Act. There was no action which would bring the Government more credit in the future than dealing with this question of the unemployed. He suggested that they should pass a short Act so that next winter something practical could be done. He did not see that there was any great obstacle in the way of passing a short Act which would make the former Statute effective and in that way doing something effective to deal with this great difficulty.

*Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich) rejoiced that an opportunity, however limited, had been afforded to the House of dealing with this question. He hoped the House would forgive some interruptions of which he was guilty earlier in the evening when the House appeared to be discussing somebody else's dinner instead of discussing the question of finding dinners for the unemployed. Of course he knew that the House, like the War Office, was throttled by tradition, but there were limits to human endurance, when hon. Members were compelled to listen to an academic discussion of no practical value, although they knew that questions of such importance as those which concerned the unemployed were awaiting discussion. He did not wish to alarm the House by stating what the unemployed would do if their wants were not attended to. He wished he could; but the unemployed, he was sorry to say, had no sense of their rights as Englishmen. If they had, matters would be very different. He had never said, as had been stated, that the last Act of Parliament was not worth the paper it was written upon. What he had said was that it would form a capital "jumping off ground" for this Government to do some real good with. He had said in fact that it was a very excellent starting point. His grievance was that they never seemed to get beyond the stage of investigation and inquiry. We had been going through a period of distress for the last seven or eight years, and there were some few Boards of Guardians, over one of which he had the honour to preside, who had thought it their duty to keep the working man up to the working point and to prevent his being starved, by finding work for him, if he was capable of doing it, and had not sunk to the ranks of the unemployable. They had been working in that direction for a year, and he supposed that next week when the auditor of the Local Government Board came down, he would sit in judgment upon them, because they had tried to keep body and soul together in these poor workmen. They had been attacked in this matter and criticised for maladministration, but his Board of Guardians had tried to do this work, whether it was within the law or without the law, and it seemed hard that they should be the first to be put upon for trying to break through the old bad traditions of the Poor Law. There were more people claiming relief than there ever were before at this time of the year. It was no use to attempt to compare the figures of January with the figures of May, or *vice versa*, as some hon. Members seemed to wish to do. The unfortunate thing about the whole question was that this Act of Parliament seemed to have been misconstrued. It was the intention of the late Government to endeavour, as far as possible, to stop recruiting the ranks of the unemployed, and the man who was just out of employment would, it was thought, be so dealt with that he would be saved before he parted with everything he possessed. But nothing of the kind had happened, and as a matter of fact very little had been done. Funds were urgently needed for the keeping of the genuine unemployed in a state of working capacity. The Relief Committees had, he complained, dealt with cases upon sympathetic lines. If a big, strong man came up, and wanted help, the Committee said, "He is big and strong and can find a job anywhere;" but when a weak man came along, who wanted not work but hospital treatment, looking after properly, and building up, they dealt with him under the Unemployed Act. That was manifestly unfair to everybody concerned. They wanted the best men, and not the worst men to be saved. In many districts, however, the weakest creature got all the sympathy and help under this Act when he ought to be helped in another way. They wanted the Local Government Board to recognise that there were three classes of unemployed working men. There was the genuine working man, the unemployable, and the tramp, and these ought not to be confused when steps were taken in regard to the unemployed. If a Congested District Board in Ireland could deal with certain districts where employment was so bad that the people were impoverished, why could we not have the same thing here? It had been pointed out that the Act killed charity, and he was not very sorry for it. He lived among what he might call, but what he ought not call, his own poor, because the poor belonged to the nation and not to Poplar or West Ham or any other district. He had to hear people say, "Do you call that a working man? Why, he is a loafer." His answer to that was that they had no right to call any man a loafer until they had offered him work and he had refused. He had asked the Government over and over again to give them work to offer to every decent honest man who wanted it. If a man refused work, let them kick him out and deal with him in another class with proper discipline. But to dole out charity, plenty of soup and plenty of blankets for the cold weather, did no good when the weather got warm. They all knew the story of the old lady driving home through the rain and cold, and saying—

> "Hurry home, go on and tell the cook to make some broth, and distribute some blankets among the villagers; poor creatures, they will want them this cold night."

But when she got home it was a different story. It was—

> "Butler, have you sent out the broth and blankets?" "No, ma'am." "Then do not trouble now, it is not so cold as it was."

To his door men and women came every day; men and women with an everlasting desire to keep themselves up, but who from somebody's neglect came to him and said, "For God's sake, can you help us?" Only this day a young man came to him and said—

> "I have been to the guardians, Mr. Crooks, and they can do nothing for me. We have no food at all, and I have to go into the house."

He said he was sorry to hear it, but it was not the guardians' fault, but the fault of the law, and he was told—

> "We have sold everything, and now my wife has gone back to her home, and I have gone back to my widowed mother, and here I am, an able-bodied man, crawling about begging and praying somebody to give me something till I can find a job somewhere somehow."

No wonder the streets of London were full of unemployed under these circumstances. A man came to him in October and said—

> "I have just lost my job; can you get us a start?" "No, I am very sorry, I can't."

He met him in November.

> "Can you get me anything?—No."

Again in December he met him.

> "Can you give us anything to do?—'No.' 'No, you are like everyone else; when you want our suffrages you can do anything, and when you have got them you can do nothing."

He met him again in March and said—

> "Well, old chap, how are you getting on?" "How do you think, no thanks to you?" "Have you got a job yet?" "No, and don't want one."

What had they done with that man? They had sapped his manhood. He believed the way out was to get men on to the land. If any of the thousand and one things happened that threw men out of work there was nothing they could turn their hand to so rapidly as agriculture or horticulture. He submitted that these men ought to be taught the rudiments of agriculture. There was land enough in this country, but he would not quarrel about that, because as they had been told the land in this country was protected. But suppose these men were given a couple of years' training on the land they would at all events be fit to go out to our colonies and settle and become Empire builders in the best sense of the word, for they would have a knowledge of what they would be doing. There might sometimes be something to be said for a change in the Ministry when they saw the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board, with all his energy, initiative and capacity still bound up tight with the red tape of his office. When they saw such a thing as that how were they to get reform? The official of one Government was just the same as the official of another. Every letter he had received from the Local Government Board during this Government was couched in the same official language as those he received during the last Government. His right hon. friend had the biggest job of any Member of the Government. They expected great things from him. There were thousands of willing workers for whom work could and ought to be found, and they depended on the right hon. Gentleman to find the means. The world was filled with willing people, some willing to work and the others willing to let them. Comparisons were odious, but some statesmen loomed larger than others in the public eye, not because they did better work than the plodders, but because they made it appear that they did. Whoever heard of the Colonial Office before the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham got there? All he asked his right hon. friend to do was to give them a short Bill to enable money to be raised at once to pay for work which willing workers were ready to do. The question of Crown Colonies could be left for awhile.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said it was perfectly natural that working men and the Labour and other Members of

Parliament should be concerned, as he was, about the short and simple annals of the unemployed. And it was more natural, if it could be so put, that they should be concerned at the fact that so many were unemployed and at the plaintive appeal of the unemployable whose position had been seen recently in this and other large cities. Pathetic as the condition of the unemployed was, that of the unemployable was infinitely more pathetic. Anything that would help the unemployed to get work and the unemployable to emerge from their present condition, in which everyone sympathised with them, demanded attention. But sympathy for these two classes in the social state was not confined to any one section. It was common to all, and if the Government, on whose behalf he was proud to speak, was to be judged not only by its palliative proposals but also by its proposals for organic change and preventive legislation, it had given no cause for either criticism or blame. They had been told by a number of speakers that much more could have been done and must be done; but all those statements were made on the assumption that nothing had been done or attempted, and that the Government was indifferent to the needs of those on whose behalf hon. Members had spoken. The hon. Member for the Blackfriars Division of Glasgow had complained of non-fulfilment of a promise to amend the Unemployed Act, and of optimistic utterances about trade, the unemployed, and the diminution of pauperism. The proportion of unemployed, economically and industrially capable men, both skilled and unskilled, in Great Britain or Ireland was smaller at this moment than it was in the case of America and many other of our industrial competitors in the markets of the world. Because he quoted such facts it was said that his statement was optimism to cover up irresponsibility and neglect. Let the House listen to optimism. He would quote the hon. Member himself. He had in his hand a journal called the *Amalgamated Engineers' Monthly Journal* for June, 1906, and in it he found this remarkable sentence—

> "During the past month employment in nearly every branch of industry remained good and continued to improve. In the engineering trade the tendency towards improvement was maintained. The percentage of trade union members unemployed was 2·7 at the end of April, while at the end of March it was 2·8."

That meant that in a society, of which he had the honour of being a member, of over 100,000 skilled men, there were only 2 per cent. unemployed, and what was more, he believed that if the society could get 10,000 or 15,000 more skilled and capable men employment could be found for them.

Mr. BARNES said the right hon. Gentleman was not quite fair. He admitted that there was full employment in the staple trades, but he and his friends were pleading for the unattached men, whose numbers were increasing through the tendency of industry to-day.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said he was coming to that. He only wished to show that it was unfair that when he made a statement similar to that which he had quoted it should be regarded as optimistic and as made to cover the non-fulfilment of promises. He believed that if from some region 10,000 capable and skilled engineers could be got at this moment, employment could be found for them in taking the places of men who by virtue of their skill and education were driven — and here was the irony of the situation—to work overtime; whereas if there were more skilled and better educated men at command that overtime would cease. But the President of the Local Government Board was not responsible for the dearth of skilled labour. It was due to generations of neglect and of mistake. They had got to rectify that; but it could not be done by amending an Act of which hon. Members below the gangway took a less optimistic view last year, when it was said that it was not worth the paper it was written on and would prove to be a delusion and a snare to those who expected it was going to provide a new heaven and a new earth for those who were out of employment.

*Mr. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): That is not fair.

*Mr. JOHN BURNS: That is a matter of opinion.

*Mr. SHACKLETON: The Bill was changed after we expressed our opinion.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said he was not responsible for the change. The hon. Member for the Blackfriars Division had complained that there had not been that amount of hurry and haste to grapple with this matter that he would have liked to see. He had never said there was no hurry. On the contrary, his action had been to make the Act as good as it was possible to make it by administration, by attention, and by the energetic application of regulations. Figures did not affect him. What weighed with him was the difficulties of the situation and the need, concurrently with palliative measures and financial provisions for next winter, of legislation and change of a preventive character that would render all soup kitchens and farm colonies unnecessary in five or ten years; and in that direction the Government had done all that could be reasonably expected. He would ask hon. Members below the gangway not to forget the admirable speech of the hon. Member for Brightside, which, if it were true, and a great deal of it was true, released him and the late Government and the present Government from some responsibility for not being able to grapple with this question all at once. In less than three months he had received four deputations, revised the regulations, and visited all the farm colonies and public works that he could. His investigations had revealed to him the sad fact that 95 per cent. of the men in the ranks of the unemployed, and particularly of the unemployable, were unskilled labourers, and that 90 per cent. were town labourers, born and bred, who had been displaced by stronger men from the country, who had often left work in rural districts and created a lack of labour there. No Amendment of the Act would provide for that difficulty. No doubt the opening up of the land to keep on the land the men who come into the towns would reduce the difficulty; but he could not be held responsible for the land system. It came in with William the Conqueror, and it would not be terminated by John Burns next year. The hon. Member for Brightside had raised another point. They all knew that in London and in all large towns thousands of lads were employed as messengers—telegraph and newspaper messengers, and so on—and these lads grew up, through no fault of their own, without skill, and at the age of eighteen or nineteen were turned out of their employment. These boys provided the ranks of the unemployed with large numbers of recruits; and the House had to devise methods in order to see whether they could not revert to the old-fashioned system of apprenticeship as well as diminish this class of labour as soon as possible. The hon. Member for South Edinburgh had said that the land question was at the bottom of the question, and he had asked the Government to copy the Salvation Army method of colonies. Personally he was by nature an optimist, but he tempered his optimism with investigation of the facts. He rode 800 miles across the American alkali desert last November in order to look into the condition of these Salvation Army colonies at Fort Romy and Fort Amity. He walked six miles from the nearest railway station at four o'clock in the morning with a pocketful of stones to keep the skunks off. He made a personal examination of those two colonies, and as the hon. and learned Member had been apparently impressed by Mr. Rider Haggard's report, he would also read a passage from it. The report stated—

> "The result was an utter failure of these 18 families who went, and but one remains at Fort Romy to-day,"

and this man, now a sheriff, was an ex-policeman of Battersea, whose wife and family received him and their neighbours to tea. Because they did not at once adopt experiments of that kind the Government were surely not to be condemned if with some degree of caution, with more knowledge, with some experience, they did not rashly embark on the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of pounds of the ratepayers' and taxpayers' money to bring about a condition of things in England similar to what he had seen in America.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE: Tell us about Hollesley Bay and the experiment tried under the Unemployed Act.

MR. JOHN BURNS replied that the hon. Member must not get into the habit of choosing the line of country for other people to follow. No interruption of this kind was going to sweep him from the path he had chosen, for he was dealing with a point that had been raised by an hon. Member. Substantially, however, the hon. Member for South Edinburgh was right. Land was at the bottom of the question; but they had to prevent the people coming off the land rather than take men, destroyed and demoralised by town life, back to the land to suffer great disillusionment and disappointment. He was giving instances in which this was being done with disastrous results. In addition to the land, there was taxation, rating, the freeing of the building trade and other industries which were now disproportionately burdened. He would be unworthy of his position as a Labour Member and as a Minister if he did not say that concurrently with the opening up of the land system, the alteration of our system of taxation, the giving of greater freedom to industry and commerce, and the keeping of men on the land, they had to encourage the unskilled labourer to follow the example in proportion to his means and opportunities of his skilled brother workman, the trade unionist. He should be encouraged to make provision out of his small or large wage, and, above all, when he had money he should be encouraged not to misspend it, not to divert it to less worthy ends than the donation fund or unemployed benefit fund, which enabled the engineer, the weaver, the spinner, the bricklayer, and the carpenter to tide over depressed times without charity's demoralising touch or the Poor Law's demoralising aid. As far back as the middle of March he had an interview with the chairman and officers of the Central Unemployed Committee, and he asked for a report from the chief unemployed body in London. This in the main was a London question. [Cries of "Not at all."] Well, let hon. Members make it twelve miles from Charing Cross and he was right. This Committee had done their best, and the report would be forthcoming by June 8th. The hon. Member for Woolwich had said that the Local Government Board officers were to-day as they had been before. That statement was not wholly true. In some matters they might be, but in so far as the officers were right in protecting public money he was going to defend them. In so far as these officers were preventing ambitious politicians or Labour Members, or members of municipalities from using public funds to obtain popularity at the expense of the ratepayers or taxpayers they were doing their duty, and as a Minister he was going to commend them for taking that particular line. The example of the Congested Districts Boards in Ireland had been quoted by the hon. Member for Woolwich. He saw that the hon. and learned Member for Waterford smiled at that. If the hon. Member would ascertain the opinion of the majority of the Irish Members as to what the Congested Districts Board would do with this question, either in Ireland or in England, he would not be so anxious to see that particular model copied.

MR. CROOKS: I only asked you to look into it.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said that he personally went over to Ireland two years ago to look into this question, and he now said that he would not touch the Irish Congested Districts Board with a 100 feet scaffold pole. The hon. Member for Woolwich had said that there would be a disposition on the part of the present President of the Local Government Board to act as his predecessor had acted. He reminded the hon. Member that when the action of a Minister was circumscribed by a defective Act, when the Government had been only a few months in office, when the necesary experience had not been obtained to justify the Minister in amending it, when the Act had not provided the machinery by which it could be properly worked, the Government were compelled by responsible duty to see to what extent the Act could be amended, or, alternatively, to provide means to tide over the next winter.

MR. CROOKS: That is all we are asking for.

*MR. JOHN BURNS: But the hon. Member ought to ask for his request to be fulfilled decently and in order.

MR. CROOKS: No one more regrets to make an intervention than I do; but when I am told that I did not ask for a thing decently and that municipal persons are spending money for cheap popularity, I might have interjected "Steamboats"; but I did not.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said that he was not going to allow the debate to degenerate into a personal controversy. If a moral could be drawn from the steamboat incident it proved that in providing unemployed steamboat men with work they could make mistakes, incur great expense, and run a risky experiment. The difference between the hon. Member and him was that he was willing to confine his experiments to a reasonable area. The hon. Member wanted to embrace the whole of the United Kingdom. He declined to follow the hon. Member along that very dangerous path. Distress committees to the number of 120 were set up under the Unemployed Act. Five were in Wales, from which there was no evidence of serious trouble; nine were in Scotland, and these had £7,000 from the Queen's Unemployed Fund, and he was glad to find it had been sufficient with a balance of £600 in hand. In Ireland there were nominally twenty-one committees in existence, but actually not one in active operation. This was not the fault of the Local Government Board; it was due to defects in the Act only to be demonstrated by lapse of reasonable time. In England there were eighty-four distress committees, and outside Manchester, and perhaps Leeds and Sheffield, and five or six other districts, there was no trouble or apprehension for the future. The London unemployed distress committees had received £93,000 from the Queen's Unemployed Fund; they could have received £86,000 from the halfpenny rate, they received £25,000 only. Things were bad in Poplar, West Ham, Edmonton, Tottenham, and one or two other places, but there was not, he was glad to say, a great demand for the amount which was not forthcoming to the extent expected from the voluntary funds, and of which he could say it would not be forthcoming to the same extent next winter as last winter. He only mentioned this to show to those who had been critical that if the Government had amended the Act generally on the lines suggested throughout the country by hon. Members below the gangway distress committees would have had in some cases more money than they needed, others would not have wanted any money at all, and five or six necessitous areas would not have had sufficient. The Government were fully alive to the need for amending the Act or providing some alternative. They did not intend to depart from their promise contained in the King's Speech, but they could not, they would not, make amendments on some of the lines suggested during the last three months. Their business was to take the worst districts first and adapt or adopt remedies by a Bill or by administrative action for next winter so that the four, five, or six necessitous districts would get more from administrative help than they could get from the legislative changes advocated by several speakers. He could assure hon. Members below the gangway that the Government did not intend to depart from their promise or to adopt every suggestion that was made, but they intended to keep their pledge and to see that these districts in the coming winter should have means by which they would not be in a worse position than they were in last year. He had been to Hollesley Bay, and he was going there again. Had the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil any suggestion to make in regard to Hollesley Bay?

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I have none.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that as showing they were in earnest in their desire to do their best to enable the experiments to be conducted, he had this very day sanctioned the doing by the central unemployed body of what he decided should be done when he visited the place many weeks ago. Hollesley Bay was to be continued as a kind of training school, and every effort to fit men for migration or emigration or to assist them to resume their normal stride in the labour market had his energetic sympathy.

There was not one of the labour works he had not visited to learn facts and gather experience to build upon, with a view to a system that would get for the unemployed the maximum of good from the rates and generous subscriptions. No effort would be wanting on his part to assist experiments being tried. They did not want more sympathy than they possessed for the unemployed; what they did want was to take occasion by the hand and lose no opportunity by palliative and preventive legislation to reduce the number of unemployed, and to diminish the number of unemployable. Hon. Members below the gangway seemed to forget that the Act was only a temporary one; that there was a Royal Commission to inquire into the various means adopted outside the Poor Law for relief of distress arising from want of employment; that there was a Report from the Vagrancy Commission, and that there was a Committee on Agricultural Settlements. In many ways, in reference to many subjects, the Government had given evidence of their sympathetic consideration, and much of the criticism had been unfair, unjust, and due to ignorance of facts. Let Members say if from their constituencies representations had not received all the attention his Department could give to them. For himself, he gave attention to the subject with the knowledge of a man who was himself once out of work and to this day was haunted by the spectre of unemployment, though he did not feel it so much as some, thanks to a sturdy Mark Tapley disposition. The Government did not want to be reminded of duties and responsibilities; they wanted to reduce the number of the unemployed and unemployable in the future. He rejoiced that the summer was before them, that trade was better, that in Poplar and West Ham there were 12,500 fewer persons receiving out-door and in-door poor relief than there were at the beginning of last year, and 8,000 fewer this month than three months ago.

Mr. THORNE: It does not follow that my figures are wrong.

*Mr. JOHN BURNS said the clerk of the union supplied his officers with the statistics. No one had ventured to question the cold column of statistics which appeared every week in the newspapers, and which the Labour leaders had hitherto accepted as the unimpeachable truth. The summer was before him, and he would continue his work, not too much influenced by percentages of pauperism and of trade union members out of work, not influenced by speeches, not diverted from duty by deputations or demonstrations more or less unrepresentative. He held it his duty to devote all possible time to the subject, not to proposals from doss-house economists and soup kitchen reformers, and men who would dot England with pauper compounds where celibate unemployed labourers should be detained for training. He was not at the present moment disposed to ask for compulsory powers of detention for the unemployed; he believed there was a more excellent way to reduce the number of unemployed and unemployable, and in the task of providing this more excellent way, he would from now to the end of his six years in office continue to work. In the next years of his office he intended to wait. There was a very good verse in the Bible on this subject which said: "Let resignation wait." Hon. Gentlemen who suggested that during the last six weeks they had been over-worked should not judge officials as to what they should do during the next two, three, or six years. It would, he contended, be found that more good would be derived from permanent, sound, economic, and organic changes in a year than from nine out of ten of the illusory, transient, and in many cases unscientific theories which had been proposed. Whatever could be done by his Department would be done. He was grateful to the House for acknowledging that the Government would do their best in this regard and that they would keep their promises. He hoped that hon. Members who had earned their holiday would spend some of it as the President of the Local Government Board had done in visiting the farm colonies, which they should have visited before venturing the criticisms which they had made that evening.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said there was a matter of vital importance to Ireland that he desired to call attention to. Everyone who was at all acquainted with the Irish situation must be aware that most happily Ireland was at the present time in a state of profound peace. Not only was there no ordinary crime to speak of, but there was no political excitement or turmoil, and he thought everyone would admit that the man who would recklessly interfere to break that peace and to revive again scenes of turmoil and disorder was nothing short of a criminal of the worst kind. He desired to call attention to a man who at this moment was engaged in that work—a man whose life had been devoted to work which was described more than twenty years ago in a court of law by an eminent lawyer now in another place as devil's work. It was unnecessary for him to recall the history of Lord Clanricade. He was the cause of a state of misery and desolation and turmoil and crime over a large section of the country. His proceedings were so infamous that he had never heard his conduct defended in the House, and indeed the right hon. Gentleman the Member for North Armagh, whose absence they all regretted, on one famous occasion, in defending Irish landlords, said he declined to defend the action of Lord Clanricarde. At this moment his estate was almost a desert and his land was lying idle. In one parish alone there were fifty evicted farms. One of his colleagues, who was now a Member for Galway, who was foremost in the agrarian struggle, had experience of living in the parish where there were fifty of these desolate homes, while the evicted tenants were on the roadside waiting for a chance of restoration. It was hoped that this district, which had been stained in the past with misery and crime of all kinds, would be changed by the Act of 1903. But that was a voluntary Act, and those who knew Lord Clanricade prophesied that however beneficially that Act might work in other parts of Ireland, it would never be allowed to work in his district. Lord Clanricade had refused to enter into any negotiations for the sale of his land. He had refused all overtures by the Estates Commissioners for the restoration of evicted tenants, and as far as his agricultural property was concerned there was no hope whatever of a settlement until compulsory powers were obtained. Lord Clanricarde was a permanent absentee. He had only been once in Ireland, and that was to give evidence in an action against him by his own agent. He did not even go over to Ireland to attend the funeral of his father or mother. His house was permanently shut up, and as far as his tenants were concerned he was simply a spectre that haunted them day and night. These people had lived in hope and patience, and his hon. friends had preached patience and preserved peace in the district. In the last few days Lord Clanricarde had inaugurated a new campaign—a most unprovoked campaign—the direct and as he thought premeditated consequences of which must be to plunge the district once more into turmoil and crime. The whole town of Loughrea was owned by this man. There was a young man in the town, a tenant of Lord Clanricarde, an energetic man, who had built up a valuable business by industry and ability. Quite recently a few months ago, this young man who had never had any dispute with Lord Clanricarde as to rent or anything else received an extraordinary document from Lord Clanricarde's agent. He had created a valuable business and if he was evicted he could not get another house in the town or a plot of land in which to build a house because it was all owned by Lord Clanricarde. The other day this letter was received by this young man—

> "Dear Sir, I have been glad to see from time to time the signs of your doing a good trade. I have often mentioned you as a capable and energetic man of business, and that it would be well for the country if there were more traders, like you, with push and determination to succeed. As a tenant you have given me every satisfaction. Holding these good opinions of you, it is with regret that I feel it my duty to send you this notice to quit. I have been agent on this estate for many years and have always tried as far as possible to prevent tenants being evicted. I do not believe that you desire to cause any annoyance or injury to any one, but you are Secretary to the Lochrea branch of the Irish National League, and I feel bound to use the *argumentum ad hominem* in the shape of this notice now served on you."

The letter was signed by a Mr. Tener. The result of that action was that Lord

Clanricarde was going to confiscate the value of the business created by this young man; that his Lordship was going to do his best to ruin him because he was the secretary of a branch of the Irish National League, although he admitted that this young man bore an excellent character and had shown ability and enterprise in the conduct of this business. Now, that was a scandal. It was more than a scandal; it was a crime. He dared say that many hon. Members had read in the London newspapers the day before a telegraphic report from Loughrea, in which town for the first time for years there was an account of an Irish eviction accompanied with violence and turmoil. It was stated that hundreds of policemen had been drafted from all parts of the country; that bailiffs had appeared with scaling ladders, hatchets, and crowbars before the house of this young man. Of course the population assembled also. The young man endeavoured to barricade his house and to prevent the eviction. A disturbance took place. The Chief Secretary had said the other day that there was some stone-throwing and that a policeman was injured. He regretted all that as much as any man living; but the wonder was not that there was that disturbance and turmoil, but that it was not ten times greater. He said deliberately that if this kind of thing went on they would have violence and crime breaking out in Ireland again. He would do all in his power to prevent it; but if it was to be prevented the Government must put a stop to such devil's work as that sanctioned by such men as Lord Clanricarde. The Chief Secretary might say that he was obliged to supply the forces of the Crown in executive matters of this kind. In that connection he should like to recall from the history of Ireland the case of Thomas Drummond, who was also a Scotsman, like the Chief Secretary, and who was full of sympathy for Ireland. At the time that Thomas Drummond had charge of affairs in that country the position was far more difficult than it was now. In those days the cry of ascendancy and of supremacy was far more persistent than it was to-day, because then it had not been broken down by the proceedings of the Land Courts and other methods. Thomas Drummond had to deal with the tithe question, which had led to more or less tribulation in Ireland. And, how did he deal with it? He came to the conclusion that the system was an unjust and iniquitous one, and he refused to sanction the use of the forces of the Crown to collect what he regarded as an unjust imposition. He said—

"If you want your unjust titles, go and get them."

But he refused to grant the forces of the Crown for the purposes of recovering them. He was of course denounced, and he was told that he was violating all the principles of law, but he stood firm, and when he died a statute was erected to his memory. His name up to the present day was one of the most revered in Ireland. The position of Lord Clanricarde had been dealt with by previous Governments. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, when he was Chief Secretary for Ireland, had to face an exactly similar position to that which had now occurred. He was faced with the question of whether the forces of the Crown should be put at the disposal of the landlord in carrying on a wicked unjust and inquitious proceeding of the kind now under discussion. Sir Michael Hicks Beach issued a pronouncement to the effect that he would use pressure within the law to prevent Lord Clanricarde and others pursuing the course which he proposed to do. The right hon. Gentleman sent for the landlords and brought them up to Dublin Castle. What passed nobody knew, but it had the result of putting a stop to a great number of these scenes, and prevented the forces of the Crown being used in this way. He asked the present Chief Secretary and the Government to emulate the examples which had been set when there was only one landlord in Ireland who took this course, and he was Lord Clanricarde, and he did ask that constitutional pedantry should not stand in the way of the Government in stopping his cruel course of action. If Lord Clanricarde was allowed to go on, he would plunge a whole district into a state of disturbance, and possibly of crime. This state of things had been brought about by Lord Clanricarde's conduct. He had no doubt that they would have homilies preached to them upon the evils of crimes which would be due to the action of this one man. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to interfere in this case and prevent these proceedings from going forward. He wanted to make another appeal, and that was that the Chief Secretary should convey to the Prime Minister the request that he would at once deal with this subject. The other day they introduced a Bill dealing with town tenants, as distinct from agricultural tenants, who were already protected by the Land Act. That Bill was carried by an enormous majority, but owing to the action of the clock it was impossible to send that Bill to a Committee. He asked that the difficulty which in consequence existed in the way of the Bill coming before a Committee should be removed and that the Bill should be referred to one of the Grand Committees. He hoped the Chief Secretary would make his request to the Prime Minister, and he was sure there would be no discussion upon the subject.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.) said he was not surprised that the hon. Member for Waterford had referred to this question and in language, too, of indignation and regret. The case was one of great hardship, and it was a case of hardship which he heartily wished could be amended by law. The results in the case were most painful. In a district which no doubt at various times had been troubled, but which seemed now to be settling down, sources of discord and disorder had been again suddenly introduced. No one knew whether they would spread or not, but in the meantime there had occurred a painful and regrettable disturbance such as they had not had in Ireland for a considerable time. No one could regret either the hardship or what had happened or the possible results of it more deeply than His Majesty's Government did, and if that were the proper time or the proper occasion he might say a good deal about the conduct which had caused the evictions. That, he thought, might be reserved for another time. What he meant to do now was to make plain the position the Government occupied. The hon. Member, without attacking the Government in any way, had asked the Government to invest itself with, and exercise, what might be called a dispensatory power—a power not to give assistance to these evictions, not to carry out the decrees of the court, and not to put the power of the executive into the hands of the officers of the court. That was a power which might be exercised in some countries. He did not know whether it was exercised in India or not, but there the Government, when any landlord or person in authority was abusing his power, could put pressure on the individual. That was not the postition of the Government of this country. The hon. Member had referred to Thomas Drummond, a name never to be mentioned without a tribute of admiration, and with respect. Thomas Drummond tried to exercise something like a dispensatory power. He appealed to the landlords on the dictum that property, while it had its privileges, also had its duties—a dictum which he should like to see embossed over the door of every landlord's house in Ireland. Thomas Drummond tried to exercise a dispensatory power, and the result was that the courts of law stopped him and said he had no discretion in the matter. A similar desire was entertained by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach when he was Chief Secretary. He did not put it in force, but endeavoured to deal with the landlords, and put pressure on them. Nothing would give him (Mr. Bryce) greater pleasure than to put pressure on Lord Clanricarde, but anyone who knew the history of the past twenty years would know that pressure exerted by him would have no effect. What happened in the case of the intention of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach not to put the forces of the Crown at the disposal of the officers of the law? There was the Woodford case, in which judgment was delivered, which showed the state of the law by which the Executive Government was bound. Execution, said the chief baron, did not depend upon the will of the Executive, and once judgment was given, if it was given within the scope of the Court's jurisdiction, it was not competent for anybody in this kingdom, however high he might be placed, to say that execution of that judgment should not be issued, or to prevent judgment from being enforced or giving aid or assistance to those who under the law were called upon to enforce it. That was the declaration of the Courts which absolutely bound the Executive Government, and that declaration was repeated in a subsequent case in the time of the Chief Secretaryship of the present Secretary of State for India, in which the law was laid down that no official or Chief Secretary could refuse to give assistance to carry out the decree of the Court. This was not, as the hon. Member for Waterford suggested, a piece of constitutional pedantry. What he should do if he were to refuse the assistance demanded by the sheriffs would be to disobey the law, to expose whoever disobeyed the law to an indictment, and to set an example of law-breaking, while removing from the House of Commons and Parliament its responsibility for seeing that the law was proper and just. It was the duty of Parliament to make just laws, but while the law stood it had to be enforced. It was one of the most painful parts of the duty of an Executive Government that it was obliged to carry out the decrees of the Courts whatever its opinion was as to the justice of the law. All they could do was to try and amend the law and put an end to cases in which hardship existed. That led him to the appeal made by the Member for Waterford, who had asked him to convey it to the Prime Minister, as the only person who could give a proper answer to it. All he could do was to undertake to have it conveyed to the Prime Minister. He might say to the hon. Member for Waterford that if the appeal was to have a proper chance of success it would be necessary for the hon. Member to throw some of the deck cargo over, and proceed only with those proposals which could be promptly carried. He might be assured that his appeal would lose nothing in being transmitted to the Prime Minister from any sympathy he himself could give it, for he concurred most heartily with the desire that the Bill should be passed into law. He had expressed his feeling most candidly and purely on this case. He hoped he had conveyed to the House the regret and pain with which the Executive felt bound to follow the course that in obeying the law they must take. He would also appeal to hon. Members from Ireland to do their best to secure that the inevitable horror of a case like this should not spread further over Ireland. The hon. Member for Waterford had said there was only one man in Ireland who could do it. He hoped that was true, and that the mischief would not extend beyond the immediate neighbourhood of that man. He hoped and trusted that the Members from Ireland, who had a deserved influence with their countrymen and knew what the position of the Executive was, and how it could not do what it was asked, would remember that they also should do their part in endeavouring, as far as possible, to preserve peace in Ireland.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said he had listened with great attention to the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary, and knew, as did every Irish Member, that there could be no other answer than the one given. He did not blame the right hon. Gentleman for the attitude he had taken up. It was the only attitude that an executive officer could take up. The district now under discussion was possibly the most blood-stained part of Ireland. Twenty years ago it was the scene of the most dreadful outrages, and here they had a fire lit in a period of profound peace by the same man who, if he had his due, ought to have been expropriated twenty years ago. It was all very well to appeal to the Irish Members, and he was perfectly sure that no Irish Member would do anything to exasperate the people. But he had been all over this ground and he knew Lord Clanricarde and his agents, and they were the two danger points in that district. It was a very terrible thing that one man, an absentee from the country, who did nothing but draw £20,000 a year out of these poor people, who never gave a single silver sixpence in charity, should have the power to light a fire to consume all the good feeling that had been growing up in Ireland. Long ago, during the terrible events of twenty years ago, he said he was ready to support a Bill for the expropriation of this man out of the country, and if this man brought back Ireland to the state of things that existed then, he thought that the Government should bring in a Bill to expropriate the Marquess of Clanricarde from his propetry.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) called the attention of the Secretary for Scotland to the action of Major Ferguson, Chief Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, who, in a speech made recently at Partick in the presence of the Provost, made a most slanderous attack on the character of the island people of Scotland, alluding in particular to the men of Skye and of Lewis, who were his (Mr. Weir's) constituents. Major Ferguson said that the whole of the local force were recruited from the north and west of Scotland, and desired to know how many recruits came from the islands of Lewis and Skye, because in the Army men from these islands had the character of being very untruthful and would not be at all suitable for the constabulary. The Major added that although they might sometimes tell the truth by accident, the chances were all the other way, and that was a very great stigma upon these island men of whom Lord Roberts had spoken so highly. The late Commander-in-Chief had said that none of the men did better on the march to Candahar than the Seaforth Highlanders, and yet the Chief Inspector of Constabulary talked of them in this way! Seeing that fishing was the only industry in these islands, Major Ferguson's statement would take away any chance of the men getting employment elsewhere, because people would not have them if they thought they were untruthful.

Mr. WHITELEY rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question, "That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House at its rising this day do adjourn until Thursday, June 7th.—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

EVICTION OF WORKMEN.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.) said that, in calling attention to the eviction of workmen, particularly during a trade dispute, and moving the Resolution standing in his name, he did not wish to imply that the grievances to which the Resolution alluded were in any sense general. Although organised workmen had many troubles with employers of labour, the instances in which such grievances arose were happily rare. At the same time there had been a number of cases during the past few years where organised bodies of workmen had been most harshly treated by men who had been both their employers and their landlords. In the case of many disputes in the coal industry in Scotland he had information showing that evictions had taken place solely with the object of compelling the men to accept industrial conditions which the employers desired to force upon them. He would not go over the minor instances in relation to this complaint. He would, however, refer to what took place not very long ago in connection with the colliery dispute at Hemsworth. A report he had of what occurred stated that—

> "Hunger and starvation not having subdued the men, the colliery company evicted 111 occupants of houses with their wives and children, numbering altogether 615. This failing to subdue the men, the company took over eighty more houses from another landlord, and evicted the miners from those houses, and this brought up the total of people evicted to 1,071 persons. The miners evicted had lived there from ten to twenty-six years, and in some thirty cases no rent whatever was owing, and rents offered weekly were refused in some cases. The company even evicted women whose husbands had lost their lives in the service of the company. Whilst evictions were carried out by the police, rain poured down, and through the bedding, and notwithstanding appeals to postpone evictions for a few hours, no grace or quarter were shown the suffering and starving people. Great difficulty existed to secure ground whereupon to fix bell tents, owing to the land being held by the Fitzwilliams and the Leathams, the latter threatening a certain man who felt inclined to place at our disposal his field held under lease. We had finally to pitch against the local gas works, and upon boggy land, up to the ankles in mud after rain. Rain came through the tents, and mothers had there to sleep with children in their arms."

He submitted that conditions such as these ought not to be quietly tolerated or permitted by our laws. He would read a note from a report he had received from Scotland in connection with a dispute in that country, as showing what it was in the power of employers who were also landlords to do. The report said—

> "The threat of eviction is continually hanging over the heads of our men; and as nearly 25 per cent. of our miners are in coalmasters' houses, you will have some idea of the powerful influence the employer exercises."

The Resolution pointed out that employers in many instances made the tenancy of their houses a condition of employment, and some had made it a condition that those who occupied those houses should not be members of a trade union. He would read the terms of an agreement relating to a body of men who some time ago had a dispute with their employer at the Craven Lime Works. The agreement was as follows—

> "The tenant agrees with the landlords that he, the tenant, is not a member of any Labour Union, and will not become one so long as he occupies the said cottage, and that whilst he has sufficient accommodation in such cottage, and wishes to take lodgers, he will give preference to respectable men in the employ of the landlords, but will not take or receive into such cottage any other lodger not being a wife or child of the tenant, without the written permission of the landlords."

It had been said that the Englishman's house was his castle. It seemed that the English workman's house was his landlord's. He did not object to the exercise of the rights of property in the ordinary way, but he did not think our laws should tolerate a condition of things where the balance of power and advantage was left entirely on one side, and where employers were able to take the shelter from the heads of their workmen and turn them and their families out of their homes. They heard during the South African War of the necessities of the military causing women and children to be turned out of their homes, but even there some provision was made in order that suffering might be allayed and that innocent women and children should not be unduly punished. And yet in this country it was possible for employers of labour to turn out workmen and their families, and, having done that, instead of permitting provision to be made by others to meet their distress, they meted out threats to those who sought to succour the distressed. He did not think that Members of the House would allege that organised bodies of workmen in this country existed for any evil purpose. Their greatest desire in connection with industrial matters was to prevent disputes wherever it was possible, and disputes had frequently arisen because employers had declined to meet the accredited representatives of organised bodies of workmen. The employer was protected against the risk of damage or loss for the non-execution of contracts on account of strikes. Should there not be a similar state of things which would prevent that employer from taking away the shelter from the family while the head was engaged in a difference with his employer? The Resolution asked the Government to meet a difficulty which, though not frequent, had been both lamentable and severe in its character. They should recognise that property not only had its rights but also its duties. In this case property had the right to evict men from their homes, and these evictions had taken place despite the offer of rent in the ordinary way. The object of these evictions was not to improve the house or change the tenancy, but to compel the tenants to accept wages and working conditions which otherwise as organised workmen they would not accept. He thought they were entitled to call upon the House to deal with this matter in order to prevent the recurrence of such pitiable spectacles as had been recently witnessed in large industrial centres. He begged to move.

Mr. E. EDWARDS (Hanley), in seconding the Motion, thought the House would agree that whatever the merits or the demerits of a dispute between an employer and his workpeople might be, there could be no justification for turning women and children out of their homes into the storm as had been done in certain parts of the country. Nothing accentuated differences between employers and employed so acutely as the power of eviction which the employer possessed. He thought there was a general desire that some solution of the difficulty between these two conflicting interests should be found. Whilst delicate negotiations were proceeding between the two parties intersted in a dispute it did not tend towards a harmonious arrangement or towards soothing the feelings of those engaged in the dispute when evictions were resorted to. This was a condition of things which ought not to be tolerated. An employer under such circumstances had not only power to deprive his workmen of employment but also power of evicting them from their homes and turning them adrift. The evil was not to-day so widespread as it was thirty or forty years ago. In modern mining, where large collieries were started, it was inevitable that a village for the workmen should be built side by side with the sinking of the colliery, because such an undertaking could not be carried on without the workmen. What generally happened was this. The colliery proprietors having decided upon their enterprise proceeded to build houses for their workpeople in the vicinity. Men living eight or ten miles away could not perform their ordinary functions at a colliery without shelter of some kind, and there was no town council or urban authority there to build houses for them. This meant that either the colliery owners themselves or some speculative builders must provide housing accommodation. The result was that, in a community like this, when a dispute arose the very serious problem had to be faced of what would happen to these workmen in case of a strike. It was manifestly unfair that the workers in a great industry should be placed in a worse position by reason of the colliery proprietors owning the houses in which the workmen lived than they would be in if the houses were owned by private individuals. Without desiring to accentuate the appalling misery of some of the recent evictions which took place in the depth of winter, he was satisfied that the House would at once realise that it was not consistent with our modern notions of civilisation that in the depth of winter whole families should be turned adrift without shelter. Whatever differences arose between employers and workmen ought to be fought out fairly and squarely, but the line should be drawn at inflicting unnecessary suffering upon women and children. For these reasons he should support the Resolution, and he urged the Government to see if it was not possible for them to do something to prevent such calamities as had happened recently in Yorkshire and in Scotland.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That in the opinion of this House the practice of employers, letting dwelling houses to their workpeople, making tenancy of such houses in many cases a condition of employment, and turning such workpeople out of their homes during a trade dispute, is most reprehensible, and it calls upon the Government to introduce legislation which will afford security of tenure during a period of dispute or such security as would exist if the houses were owned by ordinary landlords."—(*Mr. Clynes.*)

MR. WALSH (Lancashire, Ince) said it would be seen that the Motion directed attention to the practice of employers letting dwelling houses to their workpeople and making the tenancy of such houses, in many cases, a condition of employment. It was not merely that the tenancy of the house was a condition of employment. It meant also that if at any time they left their employment or were desirous of leaving their employment, they must also leave the house. It did not matter how many years they had lived in that house, nor indeed what domestic affections might have grown up in the locality where they had lived for so long. The thousand and one ties were ruthlessly broken if a man was desirous of improving his condition by going elsewhere to seek employment. There were many cases in colliery districts were the employee had to sign a contract that he would be prepared to take the house let by the particular company by whom he was to be employed, and if at any moment he left that company he had also to face the prospect of leaving the house. There was no equity of contract or consideration in such conditions as these. For many generations Parliament had endeavoured to enforce equity in contracts of this kind. There was much truth in the old saying, "Once a miner always a miner." It was not easy for a man at middle age to find fresh avenues of employment, and if a man was bound down by special conditions of his calling he was deprived of that nobility which labour ought to possess, and which every honest working man endeavoured to secure. This was a despotic power which ought not, which could not, with safety to the interests of the nation be allowed to remain in the hands of unscrupulous employers. So far as he was aware the power had not been in a great many cases ruthlessly exercised. In Lancashire they had not had a case for thirty years. Although he was not one of the most friendly disposed towards employers, he said that while they possessed this power and refrained from exercising it they deserved the greatest possible credit. But in a neighbouring county the power had been most ruthlessly exercised. It was not merely despotism, because a despot might be benevolent. But when the power of despotism was used under conditions such as obtained in 1903 when 500 householders with their wives and children and old folks were turned out in the depths of bitter winter, it was indeed "methods of barbarism." The House ought to approach the question with the view of dealing with the despotic power.

> "Oh! it is excellent
> To have a giant's strength; but it is
> tyrannous
> To use it like a giant."

The practices which he had described were grossly and disgracefully unfair to the workmen. It was not that fair and open competition which this House had in many cases endeavoured to secure. It was protection in the worst degree. The ordinary builder of property, who wished to meet the normal and natural demand of a locality, had absolutely no chance against such competition. This was a point which ought to appeal with special force to a free trade Ministry. A good deal had been said to-day by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford about the eviction of one man. He was glad that there was such a crowded attendance on the Ministerial Benches when the hon. and learned Gentleman brought that case before the House. He wished that this question, which affected many thousands of workmen, had attracted the same crowd of Members. The Labour representatives wanted the law to be made synonymous with something like justice, if not with clemency, to the poor. As at present administered in the mining districts the law was synonymous with oppression, and it had inspired a feeling among workmen of distrust, fear, and hatred. That was not a condition of things with which the people of this nation could remain content. The House should prevent the arbitrary and tyrannical exercise of the powers with which employers of the character indicated had clothed themselves. They had a right to see that there should be something like equity and freedom of contract and that the law should be made synonymous with even-handed justice and fair play.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.) bore testimony to the fair and reasonable character of the speeches, and said he was aware that hon. Members admitted that, though harsh cases of eviction of workmen from their cottages sometimes occurred, they were, on the whole, rare incidents of trade disputes. It was difficult to find a solution of the question, because the tenancy of those who were attached to works could not be dissociated from the general question of tenure in respect of similar cottages throughout the rural districts of the country. It was impossible in many places to sink a coal-shaft without providing accommodation for the workmen, and some employers on that account owned hundreds of workmen's cottages. If a strike occurred and an employer used his legal powers to evict the workmen and their families in the interest of his industry, there was probably a sense in which recourse to such action might be described as harsh and even reprehensible. It was well, however, to bear in mind the other side of the case. If they were to give to the workmen something like fixity of tenure in these cottages during a trade dispute, or permanently, then the advantage would be on the side of the workmen, who would have the employer pretty well at their mercy. It was obvious, therefore, that there were great difficulties and some hardships arising out of the treatment of this question, and caution was needed before rash legislation was attempted. Hon. Members must remember that legislation could not be limited to any particular class of workmen. The workmen all over the country, holding cottages by a similar tenure, would have to be considered, and especially the position of the agricultural labourer and the tenure of his cottage. Since 1892 a Bill had been brought into the House on five occasions providing that where a tenant occupied his house as a workman his tenancy should only be terminated at three months notice. This measure had never reached the Second Reading stage, presumably because the practical difficulties of the question were felt to be so great as to be almost insuperable. Possibly some good might be done by a Bill which provided that a workman should not be ejected from his cottage until after a certain period of notice. Three months would be too long, but it might not be unfair to allow a notice of three or four weeks. In the Land Tenure Bill of this session there was a provision to give to the agricultural labourer who was unreasonably disturbed some compensation; and the House might consider to what extent this provision could be more widely extended. The difficulties they were considering, however, arose out of the industrial divisions that had arisen in modern times, for strikes were the workmen's remedy in cases of dispute with the master. Nobody liked strikes, but in certain conditions they were inevitable, and the men who took part in them ought not to suffer more than their inevitable consequences. There was hardship in connection with evictions, perhaps in mid-winter, and all the suffering of the family which might prove a very serious danger. Now that they were engaged in considering this particular grievance he did not know whether a solution of the difficulty might not be found by some system of arbitration or by the direct action of legal proceedings. The only suggestion he could make now was that that was a matter which came within the scope of the reference to the Committee to which the hon. Member opposite had referred. He was sure that the question regarding the agricultural labourers came within the reference to the Committee on Truck. He had already mentioned the matter to his hon. friend the Lord-Advocate, who was Chairman of that Committee, and that hon. and learned Gentleman was going to consult his colleagues on the subject, and perhaps some suggestion might come from that Committee as a result of the present discussions.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) said that under the present condition of things all the powers and influences of compulsion and threat were used by certain employers against their men when questions of disagreement as to the conditions of labour or the wages to be paid were in dispute. There was always a threat of turning the families of the workmen into the street, and that was one of the greatest hardships which workmen had to contend with in asserting their right of combination for the purpose of improving their condition generally. It showed that employers had a far more potent power to insist on what they regarded as their rights than the workmen had. As a matter of fact, almost the whole navvy population of the country were obliged, owing to the conditions of their trade, to live in their employers' houses. That was illustrated in the case of the Derwent Valley Water Works and the Avonmouth Docks, as well as in every other great engineering enterprise. He was afraid that the Committee would be ineffective, so far as influence on the question as to whether rent should be regarded as truck was concerned. Only in certain cases was rent regarded as truck, and therefore he thought that the State ought to step in and equalise matters as between employers and employed.

MR. CLYNES said that after the sympathetic statement which had been made by the right hon. the Home Secretary, he was willing to withdraw his Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC.

MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) said that the Motion standing in his name reaffirmed the conviction of the House that the Indo-Chinese opium trade was morally indefensible and requested His Majesty's Government to take such steps as might be necessary for bringing it to a speedy close. This subject had not been discussed in the House for eleven years, but he was quite sure that hon. Members would admit that a Parliamentary discussion of it was overdue in consequence of the growth of public opinion, attested by the correspondence and telegrams received during the last few days. The first part of his Resolution followed the wording of the Resolution passed in 1895 by a large majority, and the second part was a natural consequence of the first proposition As he had said, very much had happened since 1895 to the making of public opinion on the subject, and public opinion had shown itself in a very remarkable degree in the letters and telegrams sent to him. Whatever the opinion of the House might be it was unquestionable that the enlightened intellectual and religious opinion of the public had been strongly moved on several grounds against the traffic. The first was that opium smoking was a great curse to the Chinese. The second was that we had made war on China in 1839 and 1842 because she tried to prevent our vessels smuggling opium into China against the wishes of her Government. The third was that ever since then we had practically forced the opium traffic on China. The fourth was that the Indian Government's revenue from the opium traffic, amounting last year to £3,833,000, was derived mainly at the cost of the misery and vice and poverty of many millions of the Chinese people, and although they would lose that revenue it was their duty to stop this traffic as speedily as possible. The Chinese did their best to stop the traffic. Commissioner Liu in an address to our Queen said—

> "Though not making use of it one's self, to venture on the manufacture and sale of it and with it to seduce the simple folk of this land is to seek one's own livelihood by the exposure of others to death. Such acts are bitterly abhorrent to the nature of man and are utterly opposed to the ways of Heaven. We would now then concert with your hon. Sovereignty means to bring to a perpetual end this opium traffic so hurtful to mankind, we in this land forbidding the use of it and you in the nations under your dominion forbidding its manufacture."

In the least aggressive way the Chinese Government tried to force us to stop the smugglers and we took the smugglers' part. Even after the opium war which lasted up till 1842 smuggling still went on. Not till another war with China, lasting from 1856 to 1858, had taken place was the traffic recognised by the Treaty of Tien Tsin and made lawful but not righteous. By a subsidiary convention made at Shanghai the duty on opium was fixed at three taels, a very small duty compared with the duties that existed in other countries. He had examined the treaty and the subsidiary convention which we made with China, and the most remarkable feature of that convention was that whereas provision was made for the revision of all other duties, opium was expressly exempt, and therefore the duty on opium was bound to remain. In 1869 the British Minister had an interview with the Chinese Foreign Minister who made some suggestions. He said it had been suggested that, instead of importing foreign opium from British subjects, they should grow their own opium. He disclaimed any desire to do it, but he said he might be driven to it. In 1871 another Ambassador said the Chinese Government were contemplating producing opium in China, but he also said in the same year, in giving evidence before the East Indian Committee, that the Chinese would not hesitate for one moment to-morrow, if they could, to enter into an arrangement with the British Government, and say, "Let our revenue go, we care nothing about it. What we want to stop is the consumption of opium, which we conceive is impoverishing our country and demoralising and tantalising our people." Even as late as 1882 China sent an intelligent officer to Calcutta to sound the Indian Government on the practicability of extinguishing its interests in this traffic. Then they came to the Chefoo Convention of 1876, which they were told could be denounced by a year's notice given from either side. That was true, but if the Chefoo Convention was denounced we fell back upon the treaty of Tien Tsin, which could not be denounced at a year's notice and under which opium was legally admitted. He hoped it would be clearly understood that the Chinese were bound by the treaty of Tien Tsin unless and until we released them. Another thing was said about this traffic, that it was not injurious, or at all events, not greatly so. By many people the outcry against it was considered to be a fad of Puritanic philanthropy or a kind of missionary madness. The Majority Report of the Opium Commission which was appointed in 1893 and reported in

1894, was thrown in their faces to show that opium was not a great evil. In the last debate in the House of Commons upon the opium question, of which the text largely was the then recently issued Report, the present Under-Secretary for India made a speech which had never been fully answered, because it was impossible to refute it. The right hon. Gentleman had spoken of the pressure of the executive of the Government of India, the filtration of evidence, and said the Commission ought not to have listened to words of untruth—plainly meaning that they had done so—but ought to have admitted all evidence without fear or favour and with an impartial hand. Might he not extract the following as expressing the gist of that speech—

> "There was throughout the action a persistent intention on the part of the authorities in India to regard this, not as a free inquiry, but as a defence of the Indian opium policy of the Indian Government."

If the inquiry had been as impartial as it was one sided it would have covered the ground of his Motion. In this Report, which was so often quoted against them, there was not a word about China. Let them draw a distinction between opium smoking and opium eating. The Report dealt mainly with opium eating in India, but an inquiry conducted about opium eating in India was no guide in the important question of the effects of opium smoking in China. Australia, New Zealand and Victoria had passed stringent laws prohibiting opium smoking, and, what was more significant, those laws had been passed and that public opinion against opium smoking created very largely by the opinions and at the request of the leading Chinese citizens themselves. In the Transvaal, in October last year, there was passed an ordinance providing that no one in the Transvaal except registered practitioners and registered druggists should import opium or have opium in their possession except for purely medical purposes, and a penalty of £500 or six months imprisonment was enforced for a breach of this law. He thought that was a very instructive commentary upon the effect which opium had on the Chinese at any rate. With regard to the Phillipine Islands, Congress had passed a law that there should be strict prohibition in the Phillipines after 1908 so far as Chinamen were concerned, and that there should be strict prohibition now for everyone else. If ever there was a nation which had astonished the world by its *moral*, health, strength, and vigour, it was Japan. In some respect the Japanese people were the same as the Chinese, but there was one great difference, they would not have opium at any price, and the greatest insult that could be offered to a Japanese gentleman, or for the matter of that, to a Chinese gentleman, was to ask him if he smoked opium. The American Commission's Report said the Japanese to a man fear opium as we fear the cobra or the rattlesnake. An instinctive hatred of the drug possessed them. The Chinese curse had been to the Japanese a warning and a warning heeded. No surer testimony to the reality of the evil effects of opium could be found than the horror with which China's next door neighbour, Japan, viewed it. In Japan the opium user was socially a leper. It was the only country in the world visited by Chinese where opium generally was dealt with in its purely moral and social aspect. How did the great forces on this question stand? For the traffic there were three classes. First the victim of the vice. Many of these, as the missionaries told them, though opium smokers, prayed for deliverance from the habit, but so long as they could get opium they would use it. Then there was the second class, the private traders who made money by it, by which he did not mean only the poor Chinese traders, but the great British merchants also. And thirdly there were those who justified it, in the interests of the Indian revenue. But if it were true that opium was to China a great curse, then the revenue argument would not stand. Wrong could not be justified by revenue nor misery by money. The defender of the present system said, "But we must have the money." But was that so? That was just what the miserable and degraded opium smoking Chinaman said when, having pawned or sold his last stick to obtain opium, he sold his children into slavery and his wife into harlotry to get more. How long were we, the real rulers of India, to go on taking this wage of sin? The missionaries of all sects and nationalities in China were against us. European and American medical men in China were against us. The best classes among the Chinese themselves, not only in China but everywhere where the Chinese had settled, were against the traffic. Australia and New Zealand had the most stringent laws against it, and even the mine owners of the Rand would not let their Chinese workmen smoke opium. Our Japanese allies sternly stamped it out, and were gradually extinguishing it in Formosa; our friends of the United States, after long and full inquiry, had prohibited it in the Phillipines. How much longer should we foster it? But what were we to do? Was not China growing her own opium now, and if we gave up sending opium to her, what guarantee had we that she would put down opium smoking? But in answer to that question he wanted to know by what moral right we claimed from China any guarantee. Surely we were only responsible for our own actions. It was because of our great national responsibility in this matter that he spoke to-night; if China chose to commit national suicide that was no reason why we should help her to do so. It was like saying that if he knew a man who wanted a razor to cut his own throat, he might as well sell it to him knowing what he wanted it for, because if he did not somebody else would. Let them not forget that when we went to war with China in 1839, and for a long time before that, her Government was trying to stop the growth of the poppy and the importation and the use of the drug. Her rulers begged and implored us not to force this trade upon her people. It was no wonder that so long as they were compelled to take it they might as well produce it for themselves. But if His Majesty's Government only would, they might perhaps, in giving up this traffic and sacrificing this income of the Indian Government, obtain from the Chinese Government not only an undertaking to stamp out opium smoking in China, but possibly more favourable terms for our legitimate trade with her. One thing at least was clear, and that was that to the extent to which the Chinese smoked they were not customers for more legitimate goods. Opium smoking not only brought idleness, vice, and crime, but poverty as well, and if the Chinese used less opium they would undoubtedly buy more manufactured goods. But what about India? How was the gap in her revenue to be filled? Let them say that the revenue to be found was £3,000,000. All students of finance in India knew perfectly well that this was a very uncertain source of revenue. But let them suppose that they made the million from its legitimate use. The people of India were miserably poor and still most heavily taxed, and he did not wish to add to their burdens, but he thought there was a way in which the revenue might be made up. More than once in this House they had been told that the great fear of invasion of India came from the north. Now that the great military power of the north had been crippled, surely the military expenditure might be reduced. Was it too much to hope that the money might be found in that way? But if that could not be done he did not hesitate to say that we should make for two or three years a contribution to the Government of India ourselves. The crime had been a national one, and the expiation should be national too. We could still grow opium for medical purposes, and such soil as now grew poppies might well grow something better. It was a curious fact that the only crop upon which the Indian Government advanced money when the seed was sown, was poppies for opium. If half the expense and care had been given to the cultivation of cotton in India that had been given to the cultivation of opium we might now have been growing most of the cotton we required within our own Empire. This hideous traffic had two sides—the Chinese got their sensual pleasure and paid a terrible price for it, but was not the money we got in return the wages of our national sin? Who could tell how far such wages might not have brought with them the deadening of our national conscience, and the decay of our public spirit? He who was ready to wrong the peoples of another race was no lover of his own. On every ground of humanity, patriotism and justice he begged to move.

*DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford) said he was pleased to have the great honour of seconding this very wise and far reaching Resolution. His hon. friend had dealt very exhaustively with the historical and economic sides of the question, and with the permission of the House, he (Dr. Rutherford) would like to say a few words upon the scientific side. Opium was after all a narcotic poison. In cases of acute poisoning there were five stages, the first of which was excitement and exhilaration, which many people interpreted as stimulation.

That was only a very evanescent stage, and was rapidly followed by depression, paralysis of the brain, coma and death. Moderation in chronic poisoning, that was to say, harmless doses spread over months and years, defied definition. It was absolutely impossible for any man to say how much opium taken day by day and month by month a man could take without bringing about disastrous effects. Every vital function was reduced and destroyed, various diseases engendered, and life was curtailed. The outstanding scientific fact about this drug was the terrible craving that was rapidly developed in those who indulged in its use. With regard to the history of the opium eater, he need not remind the House of the classic cases of De Quincey and Coleridge, but would speak from cases which had come under his own care. If hon. Members would read De Quincey they would there discover that the dreams of those who indulged in this drug were delicious if not divine. But the aftermath, the awakening was awful; headache, heartache, abdominal pains, weariness, prostration and remorse. The victims cared nothing and did nothing, and their business, their wives, their children and their homes were sacrificed. They were slowly consumed by the over-mastering passion, which obliterated all sense of duty and of shame. In Schiller's words the situation was very clearly put—

"There's a dark spirit walking in our house,
And swiftly will the Destiny close on us.
It drove me hither from my calm asylum,
It mocks my soul with charming witchery,
It lures me forward in a seraph's shape;
I see it near, I see it nearer, floating.
It draws, it pulls me with a God-like power—
I have no power within me not to move."

Physical deterioration and emaciation, mental alienation, and moral degradation followed in the train of this habit, and financial bankruptcy was a common concomitant. Moreover, the economic loss to a community was very extensive, for those people who indulged in the use of the drug were unable to perform their duties as citizens and workers. He need hardly remind the House of the attitude of the medical profession towards the habit of taking opium. The medical profession in this country feared the habit so terribly that they thought seriously and long before prescribing it to the sick. The moral responsibility was enormous. Condemnation of the use of opium had come from the highest men in the profession — from men like Sir Benjamin Brodie, who was the doyen of his profession, and who said that it "inflicts a most serious injury on the human race." In 1892 a declaration was signed by 5,000 medical men stating that—

> "The habit of opium smoking and opium eating is morally and physically debasing. . . It is a grave danger to the people of India. . . The Government of India should prohibit the growth of the poppy and the manufacture and sale of opium, except for medical purposes.

He might remind the House of the following resolution, passed by the Government of Bombay in 1881—

> "Ordered, that the following letter be addressed to the Government of India.—At present the consumption of opium in this Presidency is very limited, but if the cultivation of opium, and the manufacture of opium were permitted, every village might have its opium shop, and every cultivator might contract the habit of eating opium, which is said to degrade and demoralise those addicted to it. On the ground of public morality, therefore, his Excellency the Governor in Council would strongly deprecate the grant of permission to cultivate the poppy in Sind, or in any other part of the Presidency."

In Burmah, and, he thought, in Assam, there was a good deal more smoking of opium than in any other part of India, but there was not the slightest doubt that if local option or any kind of Home Rule were granted to India, this mighty mischief-maker would be ruthlessly banished by the nation. In Japan they took, for medicinal purposes, only 1,330 lbs. of opium, while China imported 7,250,000 lbs. per annum, and, of course, all from the British Government. The extent of the habit in China might also be gathered from the report of the British Consul-General, Mr. Hosie, in

China, Paper No. 5, 1904. Speaking of the district of Si-Chicuen with a population of about 42,000,000, he said—

> "I am well within the mark when I say that in the cities 50 per cent. of the males and 20 per cent. of the females smoke opium, and that in the country the percentage is not less than 25 per cent. for men and 5 per cent. for women."

His hon. friend had dealt admirably with Great Britain's responsibility. Great Britain, after all, was to a large extent the architect of this evil, and it was for us to seek to prohibit it so far as we could. The chief objections to prohibiting it in India were, first, that China grew the poppy. Still, we were responsible for our deeds, and what was wanted was a clean slate in this matter. Further, it should be remembered that China was awaking from her sleeping sickness. She was getting stronger every day. She was being guided and directed by Japan, and the day could not be very far distant when China would insist that India should not send opium to their country. There was no justification for what we were doing in this matter. We were playing the devil's game. He believed that for every soul our missionaries sent to heaven from China the British Government were sending ten to hell by this traffic. The second objection raised against the prohibition was the economic loss to India, which would be from £3,000,000 to £4,000,000 a year. His hon. friend had pointed out an excellent way in which to rectify this loss. He would remind them further that we could share the burden of taxation in reference to the upkeep of the Indian Army. We used the Indian Army for great Imperial purposes, and it was our duty to bear our proportion of the cost of its upkeep. He would be the last person in the world to increase the taxation of the poverty-striken people of India. He had had the opportunity of consulting some of the most distinguished leaders of Indian native opinion, and they said without hesitation that they wished to get rid of the unholy traffic, which they felt was degrading their country in the eyes of the world. When he desired a political tonic he generally went to a book written by the Secretary of State for India on Compromise, in which he read:—

> "Pusillanimity or want of faith is the vice that belongs to *unlawful compromise* in the department of action and realisation."

He trusted that there would be no pusillanimity and no unlawful compromise on the part of their honoured Leader in this respect. The Secretary of State for India occupied a unique position, and had a great opportunity. He had supreme power. They in this House had little check upon him. The right hon. Gentleman, in fact, was a despot, and they trusted he would exercise his despotism with magnanimity, wisdom, and statesmanship. Past Secretaries of State, he was afraid, had toyed and trifled with this vast moral issue. The House remembered with gladness the herculean efforts the right hon. Gentleman had made on behalf of Ireland, which had borne such good fruit. They remembered the grand stand he made for truth and righteousness in the South African embroglio. Now they looked for noble deeds in India. The hopes and aspirations of India gathered round his head, and that country looked to the right hon. Gentleman for some great and signal service. The Leader of the Opposition once said of the Secretary of State for India—

> "You might write history, but you could not make it."

Their fervent prayer and petition was that he would not only write history, but that he would make it on behalf of India and China, and on behalf of the British Empire, by opening up a new era of justice and righteousness, and adding to the sum of human happiness.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House reaffirms its conviction that the Indo-Chinese opium trade is morally indefensible, and requests His Majesty's Government to take such steps as may be necessary for bringing it to a speedy close."—(*Mr. Theodore Taylor.*)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs) said his hon. friend who had seconded this Motion had laid a heavy burden on him. He did not think he should be charged with pusillanimity, but in these great affairs of State, whilst avoiding pusillanimity, they must cultivate the virtues of patience and circumspection. When he said that he did not mean to avoid full responsibility in this matter. He seemed to hear a note of exaggeration on both sides; and he heard the words "philanthropists" and "faddists" on the one hand, and "official-minded" on the other bandied about, each reproaching the other, he thought, unreasonably. There was such a thing, and rightly, as the official mind. The official was the man who carried out policy. It was very well for them and for people outside that House to frame conceptions; when they came to apply those conceptions they had to meet difficulties, and of those difficulties the official mind was naturally the exponent. On the other hand, when he heard the word "philanthropist" used reproachfully, he would not forget that those who had been reproached in their day and generation as philanthropists, were the men and women who had done things of which Englishmen were most proud. His hon. friend who had just sat down said he was a despot. That was not so. He had many persons and many conditions and circumstances to consider. This was a new Parliament, and it would not be a bad thing if he were to tell them exactly what the Indian Government did and was responsible for. Bengal opium was cultivated under licences which were granted to individual cultivators, or to the headmen of groups of cultivators, by officers of our Opium Department. The headmen, or cultivators, arrived at an understanding as to the area of cultivation, and so on, but it was not until the season was well advanced for the poppy plant that the exact extent could be measured. When the opium was extracted from the plant it was delivered by the cultivators to the opium officers of the district, and sent to the two factories in Bengal, where with great skill and attention it was manufactured into this horrible drug. It was then sent down to Calcutta, to be sold as opium at the places where monthly auction sales were held. Each year the Government notified how many chests would be sent to market, and the price was fixed by auction. After it was sold it was shipped wherever the purchaser, a private individual, liked, the bulk of it going to China, but a considerable quantity—amounting to 16,000 chests out of 48,000—to other places. His hon. friend had laid stress on the China trade, and it was the Indo-China case he had to argue. It was not brought by the Indian Government as State opium, but by a private person to a private consignee. The Indian Government paid for the labour and raw material and made its profit, to which his hon. friend objected, and which he did not much like, from the difference between the cost of manufacture and the price at auction. The share of the Government in the matter was, first, control of the production, both as to quantity produced and as to its nature; secondly, the manufacture of the raw product into what was sold; and thirdly, to sell the manufactured article at the highest possible price to the merchants in Calcutta for export over sea. It should, therefore, be observed that short of absolute prohibition, which he was sure his hon. friend desired — he would come to that in a moment—this provision, though much was said of monopoly, was really the most restrictive provision that could be made. His hon. friend had referred to the report of the American Commissioners, and they no doubt took the view of the majority of his hon. friends around him, but agreed that this Government monopoly was one of the best means of restriction that could be provided. But he only mentioned that in passing. Then there was another important matter; there was the Malwa opium, manufactured in the native and protected States. But he would return to that, only remarking that Malwa opium at no stage belonged to the Indian Government. It was cultivated in nearly all the native States, which could produce the objectionable drug free from any restriction or supervision; there were wealthy opium merchants in Central India who gave advances, and so on, and to them it was transmitted. To that, however, he would return later. The Indian argument, and it was his argument, was a very potent argument—revenue. Could the opium revenue be relied upon? He was sure his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in discussing sources of revenue, would say to himself, if he did not say it to others, of such and such an impost, Can I look upon it as providing resources for a number of years to come? It appeared that the opium revenue was not to be relied upon. In fourteen years—he would give the House a few figures, because it was just as well in the beginning, and this was only the beginning of a considerable contest—it was well to begin with the knowledge of exactly where they were. Could the revenue be relied on? In fourteen years ending 1894 the average was £5,000,000; in the eleven years 1894–1905 that revenue fell to £3,000,000. [AN HON. MEMBER: Gross or net?] He really could not draw a distinction, and did not see the point of the question; whichever it was, the same computation applied in either case. Of course, abundant explanation could be given, such as bad seasons in China, drought in China or a short supply. ["In India?"] No; in China. The conditions in China influenced the position in India. Now the revenue this year was not £5,000,000; the opium revenue was £2,295,000. He would like to quote from a Budget speech, and, though quotations from Budget speeches were not usually exhilarating, this was rather so coming from the hot climate of Calcutta. He had told the House how the figures had gone down from £5,000,000 to £3,000,000 and under £3,000,000; but, not only that, in 1880 the opium revenue represented 14 per cent. of the aggregate revenue under the principal heads. To-day it represented only 7 per cent. On the Budget last March Mr. Baker, a very able administrator in the Financial Department in Calcutta, used this language—

> "When it is remembered how uncertain the opium revenue is and how liable to violent fluctuation from causes over which we can exercise no control, the dwindling away of its relative importance in our fiscal system must be regarded as a matter for lively satisfaction."

The hon. Member who brought forward this Motion laid the whole stress of his case upon China. There were few countries whose relations with ourselves we could regard with less pride than our relations with China. He would not follow the hon. Member into his historical sketch, but on many of the questions opened up, he agreed with the judgment of his hon. friend. What they had to do that night was to assert principles which in the future years of this Parliament might be brought to fruition. Mr. Gladstone made a speech on this opium question in 1893, and the result of that speech was the appointment of the Royal Commission, of whose proceedings all of them who were interested in this subject were entirely familiar. He did not wish to speak in disparagement of that Commission, but somehow or other its findings had failed to satisfy public opinion in this country and to ease the consciences of those who had taken up the matter. That Commission collected a great deal of most important knowledge—there were five large volumes of evidence, and doubtless every Member supporting this Motion had read them. At least, he hoped they had read the Commission's Report. He would not go into the findings, but the Commissioners laid great stress upon the opinion of doctors. Now, he was the last man to utter a word in dispute of the supreme arbitration of doctors. But what was the good of printing in Blue-books medical views as to whether opium was a good thing or not, and whether, if taken in moderation, it was a bit worse than claret or champagne? What was the value of that kind of evidence when we had the evidence of nations who knew opium at close quarters? He would say something in a moment of what the American Commission found as to the Japanese dread of opium. First, however, he would like to read a passage from a most interesting paper read at the Geographical Society by a gentleman whom he did know. This gentleman said—

> "In Yunan I saw practically the whole population given over to its abuse. The ravages it is making in men, women and children are deplorable, and, although entirely out of sympathy with the violent views of some people and the extreme measures they would resort to in India, I was quite able to realise that anyone who had seen the wild abuse of opium in Yunan would have a wild abhorrence of it."

In the face of actual evidence of that kind, what was the good of doctors talking about comparing opium with alcohol? His hon. friend had referred to the Commission instituted by the President and Government of the United States after they found themselves in possession of the Philippines. The Americans were then brought face to face with the opium question, and they did what Mr. Gladstone's Government did in 1893, they appointed a committee or commission, which inquired and reported in 1905. He believed that that Commission explored, so far as they could, all legislation on the subject of opium in Japan, Java, China, and elsewhere. They did not take the medical evidence as conclusive. They examined into the social effects of opium also. They began without a single prepossession. They surveyed the whole field And what was the conclusion of that commission? Was it ambiguous? On the contrary, it was most definite. So definite was it that the United States Government, in anticipation of their report—well knowing what its effect would be—passed a law that in the Philippine Islands after the year 1908 there was to be no more opium. That Commission, in a passage of their Report which he hoped the House of Commons would take to heart, declared that the United States so recognised the use of opium as an evil, for which no financial gain could compensate, that she would not allow her citizens to encourage it even passively. If he did not mistake its temper, this new House would approve of that. But let them turn to the other side of the question. It was said that this Assembly—and he believed it—represented the best moral influences of the country. But they had practical questions to consider. He hoped that that would not be called pusillanimity. But what were they going to do? Suppose they were to pass a Resolution to-night and to-morrow he sent out to India an ordinance to stop the use of opium? [Cries of "Hear, hear."] It was very easy to say "Hear, hear," but what would happen? How was the three millions sterlings of revenue to be replaced? His hon. friends talked about retrenchment. Nobody was more disposed to work ardently for retrenchment than he was. But let them get their retrenchment first and then give up opium. That called forth no cheers. It was said that in 1891 Sir Joseph Pease, a great friend of this cause, accepted an addendum to a similar

Motion to the present in favour of this country making up the loss of revenue to India by way of a subsidy, gift, or loan.

Mr. THEODORE TAYLOR: That was as an alternative.

Mr. MORLEY: Certainly it was as an alternative as between a gift or loan and retrenchment. If they were to say that they would ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for £3,000,000 that would be worth discussing, but he did not think the discussion would take long. Then it might be said that they could so alter their system of taxation in India as to replace the £3,000,000 by some other form of taxation upon the Indian. There they came to a tremendously important point. He confessed that ever since he had the honour of being appointed to the India Office the question of questions to him was whether a Parliamentary democracy could govern wisely and beneficiently—unless it was most careful—so vast and complex a dependency as the Indian Empire. This was the first time in his Parliamentary experience that there was a democratic House of Commons. He was almost tempted to ask, therefore, when a democratic House of Commons was brought face to face with that problem, whether a Parliamentary democracy could govern a great dependency like India, a militarily held dependency. Therefore, they must be very careful not to allow their righteous sentiments—if righteous they were—to do wrong to the people living in India. We had no right to place on them burdens, which, if they were represented here—which he was glad they were not—their interests and their habits and customs would predispose them not to accept. He would not labour that point. He was not at all sure it was a welcome point, but with all humility, he thought it was a wise one. Let them take the case which his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, when he held the post he now held, laid great stress on—the case of the native States. Suppose that we determined that on no account, whatever the cost, whatever the sacrifice might be, would we have further dealing with this drug? Yes, but there were a certain number of native States which produced it, native States against whom it was rather a delicate operation to use the full strength of the paramount State, what for? To derange their financial equilibrium and to effect seriously the earnings of the cultivators in their dominions. His hon. friend had called him a despot, but let this House, let this new Parliament, realise that they were not entirely despots in India. We were bound to these native States by all sorts of conditions, regulations, agreements, and treaties. We could not deal with them as we would with a country entirely under our own direct, unconditional, unqualified dominion. We could not do it. Hon. Members who took an interest in this question were aware that these native States produced Malwa opium. They were all remote from the sea, and the opium was sent across our dominions to the sea, and in that transit they paid a very large and, he was happy to think, a growing transit duty. If that were all, if we said to-night, "We are not concerned with any of these things; we want to be done with the unclean thing." [Cheers.]—Yes, he agreed, only they had got to see what road they were going to travel along and by what machinery, and it required a great deal of consideration as to how they were going to deal with these native States. To say to them, "We do not trouble about your financial equilibrium; we do not care what number of people you have engaged in opium cultivation, you have got to drop it." We could not, he said, say that. But let not his hon. friends be too much crestfallen. That night stress has been laid upon China. There were now two Parties to any future movement. There was China in, he thought, the first place, and there was the Government of India and this House in the second place. What did China want?

MR. THEODORE TAYLOR: Freedom from opium.

MR. MORLEY said he hoped it was so. If it were so, the thing was done. But here, again—he wanted to be perfectly candid and frank with the House—the report of the American committee, on this point of China's anxiety to be rid of it, was not quite what his hon. friend seemed to think it was. The American report distinctly said in five or six places that it could find no evidence whatever that China, whatever she might have been in those years which his hon. friend referred to—and there, he believed, his hon. friend was perfectly right—was very anxious to get rid of this pestilential evil. Let them look at our own attitude. We had not shown ourselves averse to doing anything we could to meet any desire on the part of China to restrict this importation. There was a treaty made by Sir James Mackay, a very able and distinguished member of the Council of India, and anybody who would take the trouble to read that treaty would find that we agreed to do all we could to exclude morphia from China. That was a sign—they might, if they cared, belittle it as much as they chose—that we were anxious to meet the views of China. And, whilst some of them were thinking, perhaps, uncharitable things of the Government of India, let them think of Burma. He should like to show what the American Commissioners said of that. It was fully described in their report, but they went on in this way—

> "Unquestionably the Government,"

That was our Government,

> "Is doing all it can to fight against these vices; and though misunderstood by the natives and reviled by those who should know better, the British Government is working conscientiously and steadily for the protection of the Burmese."

Let them be glad when they found the Indian Government, or His Majesty's Government, doing what they could in regard to this question. What were they going to do? His hon. friend seemed to think he had despotic power, and that to-morrow morning he was going to wipe all this out. It was not reasonable; he was not. But he would say that if China wanted seriously and in good faith to restrict the consumption of this drug in China, the British Government would not close the door. It was no secret that the Chinese had been considering for the last two years or more whether some plan could be devised of dealing with the importation of opium into their country, other than that which now prevailed. His Majesty's late Minister at Peking would shortly be in this country, and the Government would then learn from him exactly how these proposals and inclinations stood. They would then see whether they could in some way meet the views of the Chinese Government. He thought he might say that to any plan for the restriction of the consumption of opium brought forward in good faith the Government of India and His Majesty's Government would say they would agree to it, even though it might cost us some sacrifice. He thought it was Lord Curzon who said—

> "Only moral failure can shatter the prospect that awaits Great Britain in the impending task of the regeneration of the East."

In that great task, in that civilising mission of the regeneration of the East, whatever our attempts might give us, or might fail in giving us, do not let us fall behind Japan or India.

*Sir H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.) congratulated the right hon. Gentleman upon the very sympathetic statement he had made to the House, and as an old Indian official he could appreciate caution and circumspection. The right hon. Gentleman had explained the cultivation and manufacture of opium in India, and the history of the drug until it reached China. But it seemed to him that the right hon. Gentleman failed at that point. He did not explain what happened to this drug when it got into the Chinese Custom houses. That was the real point. The Chinese were bound under treaties which we had forced upon them to admit opium into their country at a very low Customs duty. Were we prepared to allow the Chinese Government to exercise their own discretion in regard to the amount of these duties ? If we were, there was little left to be said. Our duty was a simple one. We should negotiate with China with a view to withdrawing the restrictions which were laid down in the treaties of Tien-tsin and Chifu. We should give China a free hand. That was what the House wanted to be done. The Secretary of State for India should also obtain the opinion of competent and experienced natives of India in regard to this matter. Educated opinion in India was strongly opposed to the opium trade, and he did not think the right hon. Gentleman would find among this section of the community any wish or desire that the nefarious traffic should be continued. He believed the people of India would gladly agree that the £3,000,000 received from China should be lost to the Indian Empire. They considered that this amount might be saved by greater economies. There would never be economies practised in the Government of India so long as there was a large surplus year after year. It was only when there were difficulties in finance that economies were practised. It had been, he thought, a misfortune for India that during the past five or six years there had been such a large surplus. That surplus had been expended in extravagant administration, and it was only within the last two years that any reductions in taxation had been allowed. The opinion of the people of India was that very great economies were possible in that country, but he ventured to go so far as to say that such was their dislike of this opium traffic that they would be prepared to see an adjustment of taxation to make up the deficit, if it were absolutely necessary.

Question put, and agreed to.

INDO-CHINESE OPIUM.

Resolved, That this House reaffirms its conviction that the Indo-Chinese opium trade is morally indefensible, and requests His Majesty's Government to take such steps as may be necessary for bringing it to a speedy close.—(*Mr. Theodore Taylor.*)

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn,"—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at seven minutes before Eleven o'clock till Thursday, 7th June.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 7th June, 1906.

The House sat at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

New Mills Urban District Council Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords]. Read the third time and passed, without Amendment.

Lancashire Electric Power Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Metropolitan Water Board Bill. Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

St. Pancras Electricity Bill (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Mersey Railway Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

North-West London Railway Bill. As amended, considered; a clause added; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords]; Crediton Gas Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords]; Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Kettering Water Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Barry Railway Bill [Lords] (by Order); Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords] (by Order); Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords] (by Order). Read a second time, and committed.

Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [Lords] (by Order); Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill [Lords] (by Order). Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

The CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS reported, That, after conferring with the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords, for the purpose of determining in which House of Parliament the respective Bills, under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, should be first considered, they had determined that the following Bills should originate in the House of Lords:—

Buckhaven, Methill, and Innerleven Burgh Extension.

North British Railway.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

EAST INDIA AND CHINA (OPIUM TRAFFIC).

Petitions for suppression: from Edinburgh and Elgin; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES BILL).

Petition from Whitworth, against; to lie upon the Table.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law: from Churt; Clent; Eaton; Great and Little Saling; Hallaton; St. Columb Major (two); St. Columb Minor; Wells (two); and, Worksop; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petitions for alteration of Law: from Mere; and, Pontardawe; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Fife, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration: from Boston; Bow (two); Bristol; Carlisle; Chorley; Elgin; Gloucester; Halifax; Hebden Bridge; Rossendale; and Thornbury; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Northwich, against; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).

The following Papers, presented by Command of His Majesty during the Whitsuntide Recess, were delivered to the Librarian of the House of Commons during the Recess, pursuant to the Standing Order of the 14th August, 1896;—

1. Trade Reports (Annual Series). Copies of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3608 to 3620.

2. Trade Reports. Copy of Index to Reports of His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Representatives Abroad on Trade and Subjects of General Interest (with Appendix), 1905.

3. Army (Volunteer Corps). Copy of Annual Return of the Volunteer Corps of Great Britain for the year 1905.

4. Board of Education. Copy of Regulations for the Instruction and Training of Pupil Teachers from 1st August, 1906.

5. Poor Law (Scotland). Copy of Reports to the Local Government Board for Scotland on the Burden of the Existing rates and the General Financial Position of the Outer Hebrides.

Ordered, That the said Papers do lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy Presented, of Regulations for the Preliminary Education, Training, and Certification of Teachers for various Grades of Schools [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.

Copy presented, of Annual Statistical Report by the University Court of the University of St. Andrews for 1904–5 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 187.]

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.

Copy presented, of Report on the State of the Finances of the University for the year 1904–5 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 188.]

LABOURERS' COTTAGES (IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th March; *Mr. Flavin*]; to lie upon the Table.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES (IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th March; *Mr. Flavin*]; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

Copy presented, of Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery, 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Copy presented, of Returns relating to the Council up to 31st March, 1906, with Estimate of Expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 189.]

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.

Account presented, of the Receipts and Payments under the Act during the year ended the 31st March, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 190.]

ARKLOW HARBOUR.

Copy presented, of Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners and Statement of Accounts for 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways (Abandonment) Bill, and the Objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158b]; referred to the Committee on the Bill.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3621 to 3624 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Supreme Court (Rules). Copy of Rules of the Supreme Court, dated 25th May, 1906 [by Act].

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Case of Auxiliary Postman—Robert Arderley.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether Robert Arderley, the auxiliary postman at Moy, county Tyrone, who was prosecuted for waylaying and assault, had any undelivered letters in his possession at the time of his arrest, whether any of them contained valuables, whether they have since been delivered to the addresses, and what action the postal authorities took in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will inquire into the matter and communicate with the hon. Member.

Carriage of Mail Bags to Railway Stations from Northern District Office.

MR. WILES (Islington, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that in consequence of later dispatches of mails from the Northern District office the conveyance of these mails to the railway stations is now entrusted to telegraph messengers; and, in view of the danger of loss which such a practice exposes the public correspondence to, will he consider the advisability of arranging for a more suitable method of conveyance.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) It is a common practice to employ senior telegraph messengers on such duties, and in the cases mentioned by the hon. Member the boys are big lads of over sixteen years of age, who are quite competent to carry the small mail bags used on these particular despatches. Bicycles are used.

Bristol Post Office Learners.

MR. MONTGOMERY (Somersetshire, Bridgwater): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state why his recent scheme for the benefit of Post Office learners has not yet been applied to the Bristol office.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I regret that there has been some delay in settling details regarding the application of the new scheme. Instructions were sent to the Postmaster of Bristol on May 26th to pay the new rates to learners as from January 1st, 1906.

Interest on Loans for Carrickfergus.

MR. MACVEAGH: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state what decision has been arrived at with regard to the representations made to him in the matter of the interest on loans for the town and harbour of Carrickfergus, county Antrim.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I am making enquiries about this application.

Liquor Traffic—Africa—International Conference.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk N.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will inform the House as to the progress of arrangements for convening another international conference respecting the liquor traffic in Africa, in sequence to the conference held at Brussels in 1899, which fixed the minimum duty on spirituous liquors imported into the central portions of Africa for a period terminating on July 8th, 1906; and whether His Majesty's Government now intend to renew the proposals for a much higher scale of duty which were urged by them at the conference referred to and also at the Brussels conference of 1889.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The Belgian Government have issued invitations for another international conference respecting the liquor traffic in Africa, and it is hoped that it may assemble in the course of the autumn. It would not be possible at the present stage to state the precise proposals which His Majesty's Government may make or support in the negotiations, but the object which they will keep in view will be the same as on previous occasions.

Ordance Survey Staff.

MR. W. D. WARD (Southampton): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether having regard to the proposed increase in the staff of civil assistants and labourers in the Ordnance Survey Office, as provided for in the Civil Service Estimates, Class 1, Vote 10, it will be possible to utilise, for the purpose of such increase, the employees in the Derby Division now under notice of dismissal.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The increase of staff provided for in the Estimates is chiefly in the printing or publication department at Southampton, and as the employees in the Derby Division now under notice of dismissal are not trained or suitable in any way for this work I regret that it is not practicable to adopt my hon. friend's suggestion.

Service of Clerks to Surveyors of Taxes.

MR. MACVEAGH: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can now state the number of clerks to surveyors of taxes who have served 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years respectively, in tax offices, with a view to showing the permanent nature of their employment.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The numbers asked for by the hon. Member are as under:—

5 years and under 10 - -	162
10 years and under 15 -	118
15 years and under 20 -	51
20 years and under 25 -	25
25 years and under 30 -	13
30 years and over - -	4

I may add that the number of those who have served under 5 years is 227.

Government supply of Chargers and Saddlery for Indian Cavalry Officers.

SIR ARTHUR BIGNOLD (Wick Burghs): To ask the Secretary of State for India in view of the fact that the officers of cavalry regiments on Home service are supplied by Government with two chargers and regimental saddlery, if the Indian Government will similarly provide for officers of such regiments which are sent on service to India.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The facts are as stated, but the conditions of service of officers of cavalry regiments in India are not the same as at home; and on the 3rd March, 1904, the Government of India informed my predecessor that, in view of all the circumstances, they considered the issue of chargers free of cost to be unnecessary in that country. Mr. Brodrick agreed with the Government of India, and I see no sufficient cause for differing.

Belfast Lunatic Asylum Clothing Contracts.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the tender form for the clothing contract in Belfast Lunatic Asylum is so worded that the supplying of sixteen articles of Irish manufacture is confined to one mill in county Fermanagh, and that intended suppliers are compelled to contract for the goods manufactured by the mill referred to and at whatever price they choose to quote them; and whether, seeing that this system gives an undue preference, to the exclusion of county Antrim and other woollen manufacturers, what steps he will take to have the contract opened to competition.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The decision of all questions relating to tenders and contracts is vested in the committee of management of the asylum, and there is no power to interfere with their discretion in the matter. It has, however, been ascertained from the resident medical superintendent that it is open to any manufacturer to compete for the supply of clothing materials and to submit samples for selection by the committee of management, and the committee, in the exercise of their right, select standard samples for inclusion in the form upon which intending contractors send in their tenders. For the present year samples from twenty-eight well-known manufacturing firms have been selected, and these include a firm in county Fermanagh and six in Belfast and county Antrim. The county Fermanagh firm referred to manufactures goods specially suitable for use in asylums.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Officers' Eyesight.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether executive naval officers are subjected to regular tests for eyesight after their first entry as cadets; and whether the tests as regards eyesight were as severe for engineer cadets entering Keyham as for naval cadets entering the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): With the exception of officers qualifying as navigating officers in H.M.S. "Dryad," executive naval officers are not subjected to any regular tests for eyesight after their first entry. The tests as regards eyesight for engineer cadets entering Keyham were identical in every respect with those for naval cadets entering the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

MR. BELLAIRS asked if it was not possible to follow the example of America in testing the eyesight of officers sometime after they had been in the service.

MR. ROBERTSON asked for notice of the Question.

Malta Victualling Stores.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the manufacture of flour, soft bread, and other victualling stores for the troops at Malta is undertaken by the War Office independently of the Admiralty establishments; whether any experience has been gained by using a common refrigerating store at Gibraltar; and if any inquiry has been held as to whether economy could be obtained by the combined action of the two Departments at Malta and other places resulting in single establishments.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddingtonshire): As regards the manufacture of flour and soft bread at Malta, the reply is in the affirmative. Biscuit is made by the Admiralty with flour supplied by the War Department. As regards Gibraltar, a contract for the supply of both services has been in force for many years. A Government cold meat store has just been erected and issues will commence on the 1st July. As regards Malta, the desirability of combined action was fully considered in 1900, and it was at that time decided not to introduce such a system.

MR. BELLAIRS: Is the matter of combined action being considered?

MR. HALDANE: I think the matter of combined action generally, not confined to these places, is obviously a very large question which may be usefully considered. On other points the matter stands as I have stated.

Macedonia.

MR. GOOCH (Bath): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will procure and lay before Parliament a statement from the British representative on the Financial Commission for Macedonia showing the nature of the administrative machinery, the manner of its working, and the alterations hitherto carried out or decided upon.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): The British representative will be instructed to prepare such a statement for publication.

Pedlars' Certificates.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the charge of 5s. for a pedlar's certificate operates as a hardship in many cases; will he consider whether the charge can be reduced; has his attention been called to the fact that an interval of at least a week elapses between an application for a certificate (which has to be accompanied by payment of the fee) and the issue of the certificate; and can he see his way to accelerate the issue of the certificate.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): The fee for a pedlar's certificate is fixed by statute, and does not appear to be too high. The average time which elapses between an application for and the issue of a certificate is, in the case of first applications, six days, a period which is not unnecessarily long, in view of the inquiries which have to be made. In the case of renewals the average period is only two days.

Irish Land Act—M'Gillicuddy Estate.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Estates Commissioners has been called to the case of Michael Mangan, of Ardlahis, on the M'Gillicuddy estate, near Killorglin, for which negotiations for sale are in progress; and whether the claim of this tenant to have the small plantation dealt with as part of his holding, and to have his portion of the bog retained, will be favourably considered.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The Estates Commissioners inform me that no proceedings for the sale of the estate mentioned have been instituted before them, and they are unable to trace the receipt of an application from Michael Maryan in the matter. Should any such application be made, it will be duly considered, if proceedings for the sale of the estate should come before the Commissioners.

Irish Railways—Preferential Rates.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Great Southern and Western Railway Company issue railway tickets at preferential rates to visitors at their own hotels in Killarney and elsewhere; whether he is also aware that the servants and officials of the company's hotels are allowed special privileges at the railway stations on lines on which baronial guarantees are paid by the ratepayers; and if he proposes to take any steps to prevent this preferential treatment and allow free trade in the interests of the travelling public.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): My right hon. friend has asked me to reply to this Question, which appears to refer to the issue by the company of combined railway and hotel tickets, and to the exclusive admission of the company's servants on railway platforms. The company informs me that they have not strictly enforced the latter practice. The question whether undue preference within the meaning of the Railway Traffic Acts is created by the action of the railway company is a legal question on which I can express no opinion.

Irish Development Grant.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the balance of the money known as the Equivalent Grant, now in the Irish Development Grant, is earmarked for the purpose of being spent on the improvement of Irish primary education; and whether he will take steps to insure that this Equivalent Grant shall not be interfered with for any purpose other than that which it was intended for, and on which the Irish people desire to see it expended.

MR. MCKENNA: Under Section 1 (3) of the Ireland Development Grant Act, 1903, that portion of the Grant not applied for purposes connected with Irish land purchase, is to be applied for the purpose of education and for the promotion of the economic development and transit facilities of Ireland. The grant cannot, without legislation, be diverted to any purpose other than those mentioned.

District Inspector Redmond, Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether District Inspector Redmond, now stationed at Belfast, where he recently brought charges against a head constable, on the strength of an anonymous letter, did, prior to his leaving Maryborough, Queen's County, receive several anonymous letters, as well as an authenticated letter, preferring serious disciplinary charges against the sergeant, then in charge of the Heath (Maryborough) station, and now retired from the force since the transfer of District Inspector Redmond to Belfast; what action Mr. Redmond took regarding these charges; and whether District Inspector Redmond and the sergeant referred to are both freemasons.

MR. MCKENNA: The Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary informs me that it is the fact that District Inspector Redmond when stationed at Maryborough, received several anonymous letters, as well as one which bore the writer's name, alleging neglect of duty against the sergeant in charge of Heath station. The district inspector fully investigated each of the complaints and found them to be groundless, and the result was duly reported to the county inspector. District Inspector Redmond is a freemason, and it is believed that the sergeant, who has since retired from the force, was also a freemason. It is not the case that the district inspector brought charges against a head constable in Belfast on the strength of an anonymous letter, but the receipt of such a letter led to the discovery of evidence upon which the Inspector-General directed a charge to be preferred.

The Blennerhasset Estates.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that undue pressure has been used to cause tenants of the Blennerhasset and Stoghton estates, near Cahirciveen, to sign agreements for purchase, by means of threats to serve them with writs for twelve months rent where only six months was due; and whether he will direct the attention of the Estates Commissioners to the matter, so that it may be investigated before the sale is sanctioned.

MR. MCKENNA: The Estates Commissioners have no information that undue pressure has been used in the cases referred to, but they will cause the matter to be enquired into in due course by their inspector when he visits the estates.

SUPPLY [10TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES 1906–7.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,111,000 be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Quarterings, Transport, and Remounts, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907."

MR. COBBOLD (Ipswich) said the Committee would see in Appendix 9, page 196, a charge of £600 for the hire of buildings to supplement barracks at Malta. His object in moving to reduce the Vote by £100 was to call attention to the excessive number of troops stationed at Malta. The Secretary of State for War, in his opening statement on March 8th, had admitted that if this Parliament were pledged to anything it was to cut down unnecessary expenditure. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that the problem of reduction was a lay problem quite as much as a technical problem, and that underneath all technicalities there was some question of common sense upon which a layman might pronounce. He had in effect asked them to lay a finger on the spot where the excessive expenditure occurred. The right hon. Gentleman thought that the key to reduction lay in our expenditure in the Colonies, and he stated that in 1897 there were in the Colonies about 31,000 troops, whilst to-day there were 52,482. It was pretty well agreed that the only possible reduction of expenditure was in reduction in the *personnel*, and that solution of the problem was emphasized on March 15th, when a Resolution for reducing the *personnel* by 10,000 was submitted. It was on that evening, he (Mr. Cobbold) believed, that the Secretary of State for War, in answer to some remarks made by the hon. and gallant Member for Walsall admitted that there might be some good reason for reducing the garrison at Malta. He observed that when the Secretary of State announced his intention of withdrawing the garrison from St. Helena and dismantling the fortress barring the approach to London the late Secretary of State immediately took credit for the reductions, and said they were decided upon while he was at the War Office—in fact, that the War Secretary was stealing the Tory thunder. Personally, he did not wish to steal the War Secretary's thunder, and if that night or next year the Secretary for War promised to give them a substantial reduction of troops at Malta he would regard any proposition he had to make as an absolutely original one on his part. In March they were told that there might be good reason for reducing the garrison. He hoped to show the right hon. Gentleman several.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member must not discuss the reduction of troops but confine himself to the Vote.

MR. COBBOLD said he thought if the troops were reduced there would be less necessity for barracks. He understood that in the Mediterranean there were as many as seven battalions which, for linked purposes, were treated as home battalions.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member must confine himself to the question of extra-barrack accommodation under the Vote.

MR. COBBOLD said he wished to draw attention to the insanitary condition of Malta, and to object, in view of this fact, to the use of extra barracks there. The harbour was already a cesspool of drainage in consequence of the number of troops and the ships of war quartered there. In order to show how pestilential the place was, he produced statistics from the Army Medical Report of 1903 (the last Report published) which showed that during that year there were 592·2 per thousand admissions to hospital and 44 69 per 1,000 constantly sick. In 1902 the figures were 587·5 and 39·33 respectively. During 1903 6·34 died from sickness at Malta, as compared with 4·05 at Gibraltar and 5·05 in Egypt and Cyprus. During the ten years from 1803–1902 the figures under this head for Gibraltar were 4·11, and for Malta 8·37. In 1903 those constantly ineffective from sickness at Malta numbered 45·34 per 1,000, whilst at Gibraltar the figures were 29·87, and in Egypt and Cyprus 44·49. The men invalided home from Malta during 1903, numbered 390, or 41·88 per 1,000, whilst in 1904 the figures were 27·34, and in the ten years ending 1903, 30·83 per 1,000. Among the officers in 1903 there 243 cases of sickness out a total of 266, and twenty-nine were invalided home. He thought he had said enough to show that Malta was a congested district, that the troops there were too numerous, and that it was a most insanitary spot. He invited the Committee to press the Secretary of State for War to apply the policy of reduction to the garrison at Malta, and he also invited the right hon. Gentleman to see in that plague-stricken spot an opportunity to put in force the policy enunciated by the Prime Minister when the Motion was made to reduce by 10,000 the Vote for men, viz., to save money where they could.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item C be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Cobbold*).

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) admitted that there was a great deal in what the hon. Member had said with regard to the drainage conditions of Malta, but the Government were doing their best, and they hoped to mitigate substantially existing conditions. The hon. Member had, however, raised a larger point to which it would not be in order to make more than a mere reference. Although the question of reduction was very largely in his mind, he did not wish it to be assumed that he had in any way pledged himself to such reduction. It was the policy of the Government to take the Committee very much into their confidence in the matter. He was not ready to propose any reduction, but he wanted to put everything before the Committee as far as it was possible. He hoped, however, that in July he would be able to make a general statement as to the policy to be adopted by the Government, and then ample opportunity would be given for full discussion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) complained of the bad condition of many of the existing barracks. With regard to new barracks, the question was whether there was sufficient improvement upon the old ones in the matter of construction to justify the amount of money spent upon them. He did not think so. Anyone who visited the new barracks and saw the extent to which they had been built upon the old lines would be as disappointed as he was. Referring to the cavalry barracks at Norwich the right hon. Gentleman strongly criticised their present condition. It might be contended that there was no need for cavalry barracks there, but every military advisor had declared that there was. It had been a cavalry quarter for nearly a century, and the county had come forward and placed a large amount of land at the disposal of the War Office for the purpose of new barracks. The present barracks were 110 years old and were so pestilential that it was impossible for the officers and men to live in them; they had had to be moved until the condition of the worst part of the barracks had been ameliorated. He did think it was a case where there might have been a little continuity of policy. It was a case where the War Office and the locality were at one, the inhabitants having given a very generous gift, and there was no reason why the whole movement should have been arrested.

COLONEL HERBERT (Monmouthshire, S.) said there were several matters in respect of which reduction might and ought to be made. He quite admitted the difficulties which faced the Secretary of State for War when he took over his duties, and he hoped that next year, when he had got a greater hold upon his Department, he would be able to announce greater reductions. He called attention to several small items of expenditure, and whilst admitting the difficulty of keeping such items down, contended that it was both possible and necessary to do so. Of course, when people got nice snug berths, there was a tendency to remain there for ever, and in that way the expenditure went on. The system meant a great increase in the Army Estimates, although it was assumed that there would be a corresponding decrease in regard to the expenditure of the Navy. Such assumptions, however, were seldom realised. With regard to the expenditure upon clerks and other subordinates continuously employed, he thought it should be rigidly laid down exactly what clerical staff was to be employed. Clerks were taken on temporarily, and they gradually became permanent. There was also this difficulty: every now and then there appeared to be an excess of zeal in Pall Mall, and circulars were sent round saying that there must be certain reductions. When he was a responsible officer, he remembered a case where these reductions were ordered, and of course they were made, but in spite of that, owing to certain influences which nobody could explain, these extra clerks were allowed to remain on. That went on all over our large Empire, and we thus got an accretion of expenditure which he thought could very easily be reduced. Such items amounted to no less than £40,000 under one head of the Vote, and he suggested that under that heading there was considerable room for administrative reform.

SIR CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said he desired to say half a dozen words on a question of remounts. He did not consider that the remounts were at all satisfactory, and he thought the War Office might take a leaf out of the book of the Austrian Army upon this question. It was recognised, that, next to Ireland, Austria was the best horse-breeding country in the world, and the Emperor of Austria had started a system of remount depôts. It was also agreed that they had the most efficient cavalry in that country where remount establishments had been created. He did not see why we should not have similar establishments in Ireland, and that part of England where it was possible to have them. In Austria the Government lent out the stud horses to the farmers and the produce was ear-marked and might be bought by the Government at a certain price. Austria paid to these horse-breeders £32 for a cavalry horse and £28 for a gun horse, and the public got the benefit of the rest. There was no middleman in Austria, and thus a very considerable part of the expense connected with horse breeding and horse dealing was saved. In this country the War Office paid considerably more than the prices he had quoted, and they did not get such efficient horses. The average life of an Austrian trooper was thirteen years, and this was a great contrast to the interesting relics of antiquity which paraded the streets in this country and which certainly were not fit to do a long day's march. He entirely failed to see why a similar system should not be started in Ireland, where the best class of horse for the British Army could be obtained. He understood that the Irish farmer could not afford a good stud horse, with the result that inferior horses were produced. In Austria and Hungary the rule was never to work a horse before it was five years old, but in this country they began to be worked at three years. It was a well known fact that if they took a three-year-old horse and gave it hard work they would practically ruin it. A great number of horses under the Austro-Hungarian Government were paid for under the register system, under which they were lent to responsible persons, who used them absolutely as their own horses; every year the animals were inspected by an officer from the Agricultural Department, and they were used annually by the Government for four weeks' training. If, after six years, these horses were doing well, the man who had brought them up was allowed to keep them for good. Another system was that which was adopted in India of bringing over remounts from Australia; that was by no means a bad one, and might with advantage be introduced into this country. We certainly ought to provide our cavalry with better horses, and obtain a supply upon which we could depend. This would prevent the recurrence of what happened during the South African War.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland) hoped the Secretary of State for War would make some reply to the remarks which had been made and to the cases of extravagance which had been put forward by previous speakers. Their plain duty was to get economy effected somehow with a view to reducing the bloated expenditure in all matters connected with the Army. It was in little matters such as those which had been referred to that they might make a beginning. He recognised his right hon. friend's difficulty in having to take over matters as they were left by the late Tory Government, but all parties were pledged to economy, and the Secretary for War had power to carry it out. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to assure them that he had got his eye upon these matters.

MR. HALDANE said that as regarded economy a number of the points which had been raised had been engaging his attention. There was a great deal of work of a civilian nature now being done by Regular soldiers which might well be done by civilians. Working out that principle in practice was a rather complicated task, but it was by no means impossible. It had been engaging attention for some months. Whether the item for vessels, which was a costly one, could be substantially reduced he could not say at present. A certain number of vessels appeared to be necessary for purposes connected with floating targets. He merely mentioned this circumstance as showing the difficulties of the subject. No doubt both in Austria and in France much more was spent on cavalry than we spent; but one had to consider the proportion of means to the end in this matter. He admitted that under the head of remounting there was a good deal to be done, and that there was much to be learnt from both Austria and France; but the subject was one of great magnitude, and he could not give any promise as to setting up a national horse-breeding establishment on the scale of the establishments in those countries.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.) said that at Portsmouth and other seaport and garrison towns steam launches and pleasure yachts placed at the disposal of the commanding officers of the Army for carrying out their duties were, in nine cases out of ten, used for private purposes by the wives and families of the officers. He asked the Secretary for War to promulgate a General Army Order that in no case should a Government boat be used except for Government purposes, so that these picnic parties should be a thing of the past under a Liberal Government.

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.) while sympathising with the War Secretary's desire for more time to consider the question of remounts, and admitting the great cost of the Continental systems referred to, pointed out that the experience of the South African War showed that it would be economical to have horses prepared in advance. Remounts in France cost over £300,000 a year, and in Germany nearly £200,000 a year. The right hon. Gentleman must be aware of the enormous importance of having a good supply of seasoned horses. Anyone who saw the condition of the horses sent out to the South African War must know that the loss incurred would have provided a capital sum in time of peace sufficient to furnish an adequate supply of seasoned horses in time of war. He believed that something like 1,000 horses a week were destroyed in South Africa simply because they were useless, owing to the fact that they had been issued to the troops in an unfit state. If they could do something in times of peace to provided seasoned horses they would be really economising. He suggested that the system of registration of horses for use in war time might be extended. Among the best horses used by the artillery in the South African War were omnibus horses. Owing to the rapid increase of the new terror—the motor omnibus—there would soon be no more of these horses available; and it was, therefore, all the more important that means should be employed for securing a supply of seasoned horses in time of emergency.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. £4,492,000, Supplies and Clothing.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) called attention to the fact that the ventilation in the Army Clothing Factories had not yet reached the state of perfection which obtained in an ordinary private factory. This was an old grievance. He declared that there were a greater number of cases of women fainting at the Pimlico Factory than at any similar factory belonging to a private firm. He was told that there was a deficiency of pressing irons in the pressing gallery, in consequence of which the woman and girls were kept in the heated atmosphere longer than was necessary, and that most of the cases of fainting occurred in the gallery. He also called attention to the failure in this factory to give particulars of work and wages such as the proprietors of a similar factory would be required to give. A deputation on this subject had waited on Mr. Brodrick and the director of the factory, and an assurance was given that the requirements which the law imposed on the proprietors of ordinary factories would be carried out in this factory. He was informed, however, that that assurance had not been fully carried out in the sense and to the extent to which a private manufacturer would be required to carry it out. In many cases different prices were being paid for precisely the same class of work. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give his attention to these points. If Ministers did not see that in Government institutions there was at least as high a standard of comfort and abatement of nuisance as the law enforced in the case of private factories, the outcry against the exemption of Government works from the Factory Acts would become urgent.

MR. HALDANE said the condition of the Pimlico Factory had engaged his close attention, and he believed that it was now much above the ordinary standard. The hon. Member for the Richmond Division of Yorkshire had been spending a great deal of time in connection with these factories. A conference was going on to see whether the ventilation could be improved. So far as he knew there was no absolute standard laid down by the Home Office, but if there were he believed this factory would probably be found to be above what was normal. His hon. and learned friend had referred to the condition of work in the pressing gallery. The condition there was not more disagreeable than in the pressing departments of other factories, and, looking to the nature of the work, it was inevitable. It was quite up to what it should be. There were, no doubt, times when the atmosphere in this and other factories was objectionable. Some workers wished windows to be kept shut in order to avoid draughts, and others wished to have them open for ventilation. The matter was still under investigation by the War Office and the Home Office authorities, and their intention was with due regard to economy to keep the factory up to the level of factories generally.

MR. PICKERSGILL asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would kindly give his attention to the allegation which had been made as to the deficiency in the number of pressing irons.

MR. HALDANE said there were times when there was a superfluity It depended very much on the habits of those concerned. As to the question of particulars referred to by his hon. friend, it was quite true that there was a class of work known as "repairs" where it was very difficult to give particulars. This matter was being looked into. The War Office recognised the obligation on the part of the Government to be model employers. A question had been asked as to the smoke chimneys at Woolwich. There were no doubt cases where complaint was justified, but in regard to that matter he had to say that it was the intention of the War Office to keep the chimneys up to the mark. When they heard of these cases directions would be given which, he hoped, would have satisfactory consequences.

MR. PARKER (Halifax) called attention to the wages of the workmen employed at Woolwich. On April 1st this year the Resolution of the late Government to increase the scale of the labourers' wages from 21s. to 23s. came into operation, and along with it he understood that a new arrangement was introduced in regard to the reduction of leave by three days. He was not absolutely sure that this report as to leave was correct, but if it was, he thought there was just ground for complaint. The men who were doing responsible work in the way of preparing and issuing orders were not by any means adequately remunerated. As to the question of wages generally, he did not regard 23s. a week as a model wage. He did not know how people could live upon it. They were making paupers of men who were still following their employment. It was useless to say that the richest country, perhaps, the world had ever known could not pay a better wage. The average wage of the women workers was about 15s. per week, and that, he submitted, was not adequate. It was liable to lead to many things which he was sure the Government did not desire. He was informed that many of the women workers had to pay 11s. or 12s. per week for board and lodging, and it followed as a natural consequence that they must have a very hard life. He wished to call the attention of the Secretary of State for War to the attitude assumed towards trade unionists. He was informed that many of them were almost afraid to admit that they belonged to a trade union. It was regarded as objectionable by those in authority. He did not say that the Minister for War knew this. It was very often the case in Government Departments as in private employments that the principal did not get to know the facts. It was those beneath him who made things awkward for the worker. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see that the men were not penalised because they belonged to trade unions, and also that the wages were increased to an amount which would enable them to live under proper conditions in London where expenses were high.

MR. ACLAND (Yorkshire, Richmond) who was indistinctly heard, was understood to say that the number of irons was one to seven or eight women. In regard to the question of the docking of leave by three days, that was done for a certain class of workmen whose wages were increased. It did not affect the class of unskilled labourers whose wages were raised from 21s. to 23s. per week. It was found that the wages of the men to whom it applied were too low. When their wages were raised an old privilege which they had of two or three extra days was done away with because it was quite anomalous. No similar class enjoyed the same privilege, and the increased wages granted to the men compensated for the decreased leave. A deputation recently waited upon the Secretary of State, and the question of extra remuneration to men doing responsible work was mentioned. They were asked to forward particulars, and when they did so the matter would be looked into. The question of the minimum wage of 23s. was not one which concerned the War Office alone. It was a matter which affected the whole of the workers in Government employment. It would be impossible for the War Office to increase the wages of their unskilled workmen without careful consideration being given to the question whether 23s. was a proper wage for unskilled workmen employed by the Government generally. The earnings of the women workers amounted to about 16s. per week. The difficulty in raising that amount was that there had to be some relation between the cost and the work turned out by the factory and by the trade outside. Unfortunately the wages customary in London, even amongst the best employers, for this class of work, were still very low. If there was a better trade union among women workers, and if the result was to increase wages generally for the London area he believed none would be more delighted than the War Office authorities. As to the women in the Pimlico Factory they had had full particulars. A deputation of seven had waited on the Department and had talked to him of what had been going on. It had been found that the statements they made were fully justified, and that there were on the part of persons, not in high authority, undue discouragement of any form of combination. That, he believed, would be wholly altered in a very short time.

*Sir W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) said that the grievances in regard to the Army Clothing Factory at Pimlico were not confined to that establishment itself. He referred to the evils alleged to exist in regard to the work done for the Army Clothing Department outside the Government factory. Until a short time ago he knew that a very large amount of Army clothing work was given out on contract in the East end of London; and it was freely alleged—it was difficult to test the accuracy of the statements—that though in these contracts very strict conditions were laid down, the conditions were altogether evaded, and that a large amount of the work was sub-let or sub-contracted to home-workers who had to work under grossly sweating conditions. The temptation to do this was very great, because there was an unlimited amount of destitute foreign labour coming into the country, and these people were compelled to work under conditions which no English worker would submit to. The profits of the contractors were naturally very much increased. That system affected the conditions all over the trade, and as a consequence the Government found it very difficult to raise the wages of the people employed in their own factories. He understood that that was admitted even by the Government Department. Again, he believed that in regard to contracts for under £25 or £30 the conditions attached to large contracts were not enforced at all. He trusted the right hon. Gentleman would put an end to that practice and that all contracts, great or small, would be subjected to the same conditions.

Colonel HERBERT said he wished to draw the attention of the Secretary for War to an anomaly in the form of these Estimates, which was very strongly exemplified in the Vote before the Committee. The Vote was for upwards of £4,000,000, but the debate hitherto had turned entirely on the item for the Army Clothing Factory which formed a very small proportion of the Vote. The greater part of the Vote was for "Supplies" which, in Army nomenclature, included certain consumable articles such as straw for palliasses, fuel, light, etc. It appeared to him that very great advantage would be gained, for the purpose of controlling the expenditure of the War Office, if this Vote were brought under individual heads, grouped according to their nature; and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would give some assurance that in preparing future Estimates some such system would be adopted so as to enable hon. Members to get a grip of the whole expenditure.

Mr. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) referred to the question of the purchase of cloth used in Army clothing. He knew of an instance in which some putties were rejected because there was an almost infinitesimal difference in shade from that of the pattern. In place of these rejected other putties were bought from another manufacturer, and these stood only a few days wear before going into rags. The putties which were rejected would have worn for a long period, and in fact they were subsequently used by volunteers. If the Secretary for War would place someone in the Purchasing Department who understood cloth it would be a great advantage to the Army and to the Government.

Mr. HALDANE said that in regard to what had been said by the hon. Member for Sleaford, no doubt great care was taken—much more than before—to send down the most competent and reliable people to purchase cloth. There were two sides to every case and he should like to hear the other side of the case the hon. Member had quoted. The hon. Member might be right.

Mr. LUPTON said he had no doubt he was.

Mr. HALDANE said that as to the form of the Vote——

*The CHAIRMAN (intervening) said he had allowed the hon. and gallant Member for Monmouthshire to make a comment on the form of the Vote because he thought he was going to lead up to a criticism or question on the Estimates before the Committee; but to discuss changes in the form of the Vote was really out of order.

Mr. HALDANE said that the Vote had assumed the form it did because it carried out the very intelligent principle which had been applied by his predecessor at the War Office. When the War Office was reorganised these Votes were reshaped. It was found most convenient to arrange the Estimates according to the principle that the Votes for which one man was responsible should be grouped. In regard to sweating, however slow the War Office had been about other things, he could conscientiously say that they had not been slow in dealing with the matter of sweating in connection with supplies. They of course, gave out a good many contracts, and this year all of their contracts had been investigated in the most searching fashion, in order that they might discover whether any element of sweating existed. On many occasions when they were not satisfied they had altered the allocation of the contracts. The details of matters of this kind could not of course be published, but he could assure the Committee that a searching investigation was made in every case, and wherever they had had any suspicion they had made short work of the case, and the contract had been dealt with. Everything that they could do this year had been done to get rid of a system that was a disgrace to any Department. They had done their best to see that those employed in carrying out Government contracts were not sweated. Sometimes, however, he and his advisors, had been in doubt as to whether sweating was carried on. The forms of evasion were very subtle, and although the schedule of wages handed in might be satisfactory, still there were cases in which a firm paid full wages upon a Government job, but upon another job they paid little or nothing in order to make up for the payments they made in regard to the work carried out for the Government. The workers were warned by their employers that if this arrangement was disclosed they would lose their work, and poor men and women who had no other chance of saving their children from starvation accepted the terms. The War Department had not only investigated closely; they had done more, and wherever the cases of any firms bearing a reputation of that kind had been brought to their notice they had taken steps in as thorough and as firm a manner as possible. They had, however, to be very careful not to act upon hearsay evidence, because one of the worst things that could happen would be to do injustice to a firm which was trying to do its best even in a small way to improve the wages of the worker. They had as a consequence of their action put an end to some abuses which existed and brought about a better state of things; they had made War Office contractors realise that they were in earnest in regard to this matter, and that no contractor who sweated need hope to obtain contracts from them. The system of investigation had been in operation to a greater extent than hon. Members could know of and he hoped the fruits of it would be apparent before very long.

Mr. LEA said that everybody must be aware, from a recently published book and comments in the Press, of the great scandals which had occurred in regard to the working of the stock yards of Chicago. He wished to know whether the right hon. Gentleman would give the Committee a definite pledge that during his term of office, or, at any rate until confidence in the United States and this country had been restored as to the purity and excellence of the products emanating from those stockyards, he would decline to allow any canteen to buy canned goods which came from the United States of America. The particulars given in the book to which he referred were not at all exaggerated. There was not a single exaggeration in that book as to the conditions under which the meat was canned. He had visited Chicago and could corroborate the statement that the conditions prevailing in these packing houses were absolutely revolting. If the people at the War Office who were responsible for these contracts would only go out themselves and see how the meat was packed they would agree with him. This condition of things prevailed, not only in Chicago, but in Omaha, and at St. Louis, and the Government should refrain from going into such contracts unless they had on the spot their own men who could give a guarantee as to the purity and well packing of the goods. [AN HON. MEMBER: What about our Colonies.] They could deal with the Colonies after they had settled this question of the United States. Another matter he had to refer to was that of fuel and light. Some little time ago, owing to the kindness of the right hon. Gentleman, he was allowed to go down to Aldershot and prowl round. He noticed that the electric lighting power stations were not working, and on making inquiries was told that in consequence half the electric plant was lying idle or was not being worked at full pressure. The result was that the buildings were being supplied with light by gas or oil. He thought that in such a case the expenditure of a few thousand pounds would be a great economy.

MR. HALDANE said that he also had been down to Aldershot "on the prowl" and he had seen the very thing to which his hon. friend had alluded, viz., soldiers trying to read by oil lamps, or rather not reading at all and doing nothing. They had not much money to spend, only about £15,000, and, seeing that this matter concerned the social life of the men, he took steps at once to put it right. The improvement had almost approached completion, if indeed the work was not finished. This change would not cost much and would result in true economy. In regard to tinned meat coming from the United States, he would be sorry to prohibit its use, and for the very good reason that he regretted to say that the United States was not the only place in which there had been bad tinned meat put up. We had had instances of it in our own country, and the matter was one which required to be very closely looked into. He would therefore be sorry to say that tinned meat should only be bought in the United Kingdom, and he noticed that an hon. Member reminded his hon. friend about the colonies. In his judgment the best thing to do was to buy tinned meat in the places where they were able to get the best and purest supplies under guarantees of good quality. The War Office bought a large quantity of tinned meat from various sources, including a good deal from the United States. They had at present a large contract running in the United States which they were bound to complete, but he had picked out the very best and most experienced officer whom he could select and had sent him out to inspect carefully these tinned articles to see that the Department obtained goods of the proper quality. The tinned goods would be carefully inspected, and they proposed to pursue that course with regard to all preserved meats.

MR. LEA inquired whether that officer would have access to the factories in which the meat was being put up, so that he could see the contents of the tins.

MR. HALDANE said the reason he had sent the officer out was that he might exercise the rights of the Government in regard to access. The officer was not sent out merely to open the tins and look at their contents, nor did they send him out merely that he might look at the tins. They could do that at home. He had thought it right, however, to send out an officer in order that he might see the process of manufacture before the goods were shipped.

MR. FORSTER (Kent, Sevenoaks) said that no doubt the right hon. Gentleman recognised that there was a strong feeling in this country, and also in the Committee with reference to these canned goods. Did the contract he had mentioned give him the power to break it if the goods were not satisfactory?

MR. HALDANE said that fortunately the War Office had very wide powers under the contract, and they were using them to the full.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway) said that there had been some very sharp criticism of these Estimates by Nationalists in years gone by, and they still thought that the money might be much better expended. He did not complain of the expectations which the Secretary of State for War had held out to the representatives of labour that there might be an increase of wages in certain factories and also greater holidays. No Nationalist Member would complain of the expenditure of money for such purposes, but they did hope that in the main the promises of reduction of expenditure would be carried out. If there was to be any reduction of expenditure he was sure that Irish Members would prefer to see it carried out in regard to the Army than anywhere else, because they got no benefit from the Army. He complained that there was no clothing factory in Ireland that he was aware of which was supplying clothing to the Army. He might be mistaken, but he knew that in that portion of the country with which he was familiar, there was no clothing factory connected with the Army. There were, however, in Ireland cloth mills, and it was possible for them to supply the Army. Ireland paid a large portion of the amount raised for these services, and got no return, and should have some share of the work. It might be said that at one time contracts of this kind existed in Limerick, but that they had been withdrawn. He did not know why. If, however, these contracts were given out in England why should not some be given to Ireland? If there was one portion of this world-wide Empire where the want of such work was felt it was Ireland, which contributed so much towards this expenditure, and to which so little was given in return. If he dwelt upon this point it was in the hope that the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to establish a factory in Ireland, where he would find men and women willing to work at rates of wages which would not exceed those paid in England, and whence he would be able to get cloth for the purposes of the Army.

Vote agreed to.

Mr. Haldane.

3. £775,000, Ordnance Department Establishments and General Stores.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER asked for some further information with regard to the state of the manufacture of field guns. His recollection was that by March 31st forty-six complete batteries were to be supplied, in addition to which there were to be supplied 270 18-pounder guns and 115 12-pounder guns, 385 guns in all, with a certain number of their component parts, waggon limbers, etc. The date which he referred to was the end of March, and as it was now the beginning of June it was possible that some progress had been made in that regard. The arrangement which he made when at the War Office was that India should receive the guns and the waggons due in respect to guns already despatched. But it was felt that without any detriment to India it would now be possible to withhold the guns destined for that country and serve them out to home stations, whose needs were quite as great as those of India were likely to be, in the light of recent events, for some time to come. The delay had not been a manufacturing delay; it had arisen in a very curious manner in connection with the parts for carrying fixed ammunition for the field guns. When tested there were discovered in the metal cases used for carrying the fixed ammunition, certain flaws which it was found very difficult to get over. Finally it was suggested that instead of metal cases wicker baskets should be made and fixed to the limber waggons. Trials were made of this system, which satisfied the War Office; but the Government of India required further trials to be made, in addition to those which satisfied the Government, as to the safety of carrying ammunition in this form. He wished to know whether all these difficulties had been got over; whether the supply of guns to the home stations had been completed, and how soon they might expect the whole of the artillery to have the new armament in their hands.

MR. LEA asked for information with regard to a battery which had been erected at a point in the Isle of Wight. That battery was armed with two 9-inch and two 6-inch guns, the latter being totally different in type from anything in this country. He understood that they were obtained from the Chilian Government when His Majesty's Government purchased the Chilian battleships a few years ago. The question he wished to ask was how it came about that these Chilian guns had become part of the armament of a home battery. He would further like to know how much money this battery had cost. It was erected on a spot where no battery ought to be erected, owing to the state of the foundation, which was locally known as blue slipper. In the course of five or six years the whole battery would slip into the sea.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he was afraid the hon. Member was out of order, as the situation of a battery did not arise on this Vote.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston) called attention to the waste which, in his opinion, was involved in the present system of keeping mobilisation stores. The system roughly was that when a man went into the Reserve all his kit and equipment was put aside into little pigeon-holes in the mobilisation store. When he left the Reserve the pigeon-hole had to be emptied and refilled with somebody else's kit. Consequently men had always to be employed in changing these pigeon-holes. Supposing it happened that the man remained in the Reserve until he was called up for mobilisation, the clothes put aside for a comparatively young man no longer fitted his fuller development, so that the whole object of the system was defeated. He knew a military officer who decided to keep the equipment in bulk instead of in separate pigeon-holes, with the result that he was able to keep the whole supply in about a quarter of the space otherwise required, and also to supply men with their kit much more rapidly than under the prevailing system. Although the common-sense system which that officer had adopted on his own responsibility had been working well for some time past and had been connived at by the War Office, the authorities would not allow him to get rid of the pigeon-holes, the result being that while there was a room in the barracks almost as large as the House of Commens filled with empty pigeon-holes the men quartered there had no dining-room.

MR. HALDANE said there had been a considerable amount of change in this matter of the storing of clothes. At one time every kind of article was stored together, but unfortunately that system had its disadvantages too, for everything could not be found at once, and the delay was immense. Then the pigeon-hole system was adopted. Quite recently a compromise between the two systems had been tried. There was a distinction drawn between two classes of articles. For instance, there were certain articles which a man required and which were well adapted to his requirement whether he increased or decreased in bulk. Those articles were kept together in the pigeon-holes. Then there were other things which would not fit, articles like great coats, which were now kept in store, and the man was supplied with No. 3, 4, or 5 great coat according to his size. That system probably represented as nearly as possible the best that could be done. In regard to the guns, the War Office had been experimenting in different ways and were now working with wickerwork instead of brass cases for carrying the fixed ammunition for the field guns. The Indian Government was asked whether it would like wicker in place of brass. It was now carrying out experiments, but had not yet announced its decision. The present position was this. The total number of batteries was 130, of which 21 were horse and 109 field. Of the 21 horse batteries 14 had been issued complete, and of the 109 field batteries 66 had been issued complete. Of the horse batteries eight were with the troops at home and six had been sent to the troops in India. Of the field artillery 36 batteries had been issued complete to the troops at home and 30 batteries had been sent complete to India.

MR. HAROLD COX asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would allow the pigeon-holes to which he had alluded to be swept away and enable the room he had mentioned to be used as a dining-room.

MR. HALDANE said he wonld look into that point.

MR. FORSTER asked whether the military police employed by the

Government in large towns were in receipt of the extra lodging allowance given to police in the Metropolis in order that they might be able to bear the high rates which they had to pay.

Mr. HALDANE said he had not the information by him to enable him to answer the Question, but he would make inquiries.

Mr. LEA: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer my Question as to the Chilian guns?

Mr. HALDANE said he was not in a position to answer right off. The whole question of coast defence guns had been very carefully investigated, and he did not doubt that the battery to which his hon. friend referred, if defective, had been under consideration. It was certainly not proposed to keep up useless guns for coast defence.

Vote agreed to.

4. £2,543,000, Armaments and Engineer Stores."

Mr. FORSTER said he would like to draw attention to the question of rewards to inventors. When he was one of the Junior Lords of the Treasury, it fell to his lot to have to sit as one of the so-called judges in two arbitration cases in a dispute between the War Office and two inventors. It struck him in those cases that there was an extraordinary lack of system in the arrangements between the War Office and their inventors as to the remuneration which they ought to receive. He did not wish to infer that he had any cut and dried plan to suggest to the right hon. Gentleman, nor did he think it was his business to make such a suggestion. But, speaking from the short experience he had had of this matter, he did think there was room for very great improvement both in the method and in the manner of treating these inventors at the War Office. So far as he could see, there was nobody whose business it was to look into the question of these inventions, and nobody who was really qualified to say whether or not the patent was a good one. The suggestion was made in one of the cases with which he had to deal that if the War Office had examined the patent more thoroughly when the arrangement with the inventor was made it might have been found that the patent was not a patent at all. He believed the right hon. Gentleman had a large experience of patent cases, amongst others, and he would no doubt be able to express a very valuable opinion as to whether patents were good or not. He did not suggest for a moment that all these cases could come before the right hon. Gentleman personally, but he thought they ought to ask him to turn his attention to this matter, to see whether some really business-like system could not be found whereby the patents should be subjected to close scrutiny when brought to the War Office, and if a patent were found to be worth taking up the patentee should not be left to starve and to cherish a sense of wrong. He was quite sure that if the War Office and other Government Departments would be a little more generous to inventors it would tempt them to bring the results of their ingenuity more frequently to the service of the State.

Mr. HALDANE said the hon. Gentleman had raised two distinct questions, namely, that of dealing with inventors generally, and the question of the position of the inventor who had taken out a patent, which, under a section of the Patent Act, the Government was entitled to use. The ordinary inventor was completely within his right in keeping his patent to himself as the law now stood, but there was an exception to that right in the case of the Government, who could use any patent of any inventor. In the cases mentioned by the hon. Gentleman there was, he presumed, a difference of opinion, and the matter was referred to the Treasury. A point that had always remained obscure between the Treasury and the War Office was whether the Treasury ought to take any account of the question whether the patent was a good one before it came to them or not. He had a very strong view that in ascertaining the amount due to an inventor when they used his patent they ought to take into account whether it was a valid one or not. The hon. Gentleman had suggested that the Treasury were not the proper authority to ascertain the validity of patents, but he thought the same observation might be made of the War Office, and the only way of ascertaining the validity of a patent was the costly luxury of a Chancery suit. Therefore, before the question could be put upon a proper footing an amendment of the law dealing with patents generally, and not merely those used by the War Office, was necessary. It was one of the most difficult things in the world to assess value. On the one hand, there was the estimate of those who had to use the invention, and on the other hand there was the estimate of the inventor, who thought that nothing on earth had ever approached it in merit, the result being that there was extraordinary diversity of opinion, and it was impossible to get any standard which would satisfy everyone. one. The War Office felt that they always paid too much and the inventor thought that they always paid too little. He himself tried to arrive at some kind of rough estimate, and left the inventor and the officials of the War Office to worry it out themselves, and they generally succeeded in getting some sort of rough result. He was afraid that was all the light he could throw on a somewhat unsatisfactory and complicated topic.

MR. MORTON requested some explanation of the item of £1,000 for fees to civil members of the Ordnance Committee, and the item of £1,450 for fees to members of the Explosives Committee. He also asked whether the items for civilian photographer and assistant photographer were new items placed upon the Army Votes.

*MR. HIGHAM (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby) said he understood from the Answer given by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War a few weeks ago that the Government had a settled policy in regard to the production and purchase of small arms, as had previous Governments. It might be necessary in the interests of the force to have business firms from whom small arms could be bought, but when the critical moment came in the last South African War the Government were buying small arms from outside firms at an extra cost of 7s. 6d. each for overtime, while the Government works were running barely full time, and they could have produced from 800 to 1,000 rifles per week more than were produced. Taking the whole course of the last ten years, the rifles produced by the Government factories had averaged quite £1 per rifle less than those bought from outside firms, in spite of the fact that the Government works had never run at their full capacity. In placing this question before the Committee he was not bringing forward a grievance of the men. He had nothing to say about the hours of labour or the wages, but he was speaking as a manufacturer and employer of labour and one who knew the importance of running a concern at its proper capacity. It was possible to produce 2,000 rifles weekly at Enfield, and the War Office had given an order for 1,000 weekly for this year. He agreed to a certain extent with the policy of keeping outside channels open, but the question was how far that policy should curtail the output from the Government factories. At one time they were buying machine guns at about £200 each. At their own factories they were induced to put some of these guns in hand, and the price quickly came down to £50, solely on account of the competition caused by the output at the Government factories. We had been buying pistols at 66s. each, and this particular class had retained the same high price for the last fourteen years. This was for the simple reason that we had never made any at our own works. A great deal of money was also wasted in regard to machinery. He knew of some machines which had been put in at Enfield at a cost of over £80 each, and they had never been used to this day. It should not be forgotten that the fixed charge for depreciation at the Enfield works was no less than £100,000 a year. In the working of a business concern of this description the manager knew the amount of stock which it was wise to have. He might mention that the butt ends of guns were made from walnut, which had to be seasoned, and they always kept at Enfield not less than 500,000 of them. Even when they purchased rifles outside, they were in the habit of providing their own butt ends. The question of stock could be easily overcome if the manager and the head of the department worked in harmony for the stock they had to produce. One of the answers given by the War Office was that if they produced too many rifles they might become obsolete in a short time. In reply to that he would say that experience had shown that the life of a rifle was about fifteen or sixteen years. He might also mention that the life of a patent in regard to rifles was somewhere about twelve or thirteen years. He did not think there could be any objection to running their own establishments at their fullest capacity, seeing that they had just adopted a new short rifle. He had also noticed during his visit to Enfield a quantity of obsolete machinery. That did not lead to economy. He would mention one case. At the present time there were in use a number of Snider rifles which were thirty years old, and they actually had part of the works at Enfield taken up with machinery for producing these rifles, although the rifle was very little used. It would be far more economical to displace this machinery altogether and do away with the old Snider rifles. In the sword and bayonet departments for the last three years the production had not been what it ought to have been, and 90 per cent of the machinery was standing idle. It should not be forgotten that the Government had some responsibility for the village of Enfield. Enfield would never have existed but for the Government factory, it being the only industrial enterprise there. At one time 3,000 men were employed at Enfield, which number had been reduced to about 1,700, and since increased to 1,900. The workmen who had been displaced had had to leave the village and take their families with them. The hardship was not so great in regard to the factory at Sparkbrook, because in that district there were plenty of other factories at which the men could apply for work. But if a man lost his work at the Enfield factory he was obliged to leave the district. Therefore, the Government had a much greater responsibility at Enfield than they had in regard to the factory at Sparkbrook. The village of Enfield had been built for these men, and they had been working there all these years. He contended that, without altering the policy of the Government, the War Office could easily have another thousand rifles per week made at Enfield. Even 500 or 600 more per week would put the rifle department at Enfield into steady work, and keep the houses occupied and the workmen employed. Therefore he urged that the right hon. Gentleman should give a little more consideration to the Enfield gun factory. There had been purchased outside large quantities of guns which might easily have been manufactured at the Enfield factory. He had gone through the Enfield works, asking various questions, and as a large manufacturer himself, with every wish to practise the strictest economy he had no hesitation in saying that they could easily give the factory at Enfield the extra work for which he was pleading, and still pursue the policy which he agreed with the War Minister was the right one to adopt. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would give these points his serious consideration.

Mr. COCHRANE said the hon. Member had drawn a picture of a Government factory in which he asserted that 90 per cent. of the machinery was out of date.

*Mr. HIGHAM: No. What I said was that 90 per cent. of the machinery in the sword and bayonet departments was standing idle.

Mr. COCHRANE: I thought the hon. Member applied his remarks to the manufacture of Snider rifles.

Mr. HIGHAM: My remark applied to very few machines.

Mr. COCHRANE said he was inclined to think that the difference of £1 apiece in the price of the rifles arose from the fact that the accounts were made out in a Government factory in a different manner from that adopted by private firms. Where machinery and buildings became obsolete in a Government factory they were immediately written off, whereas in the case of private firms the amount had to appear on each balance sheet until it was written off by process of time. With reference to small arms, he wished to know what progress was being made in arming the troops with the more modern weapon. He should like to know whether the Secretary of State for War was satisfied that his Department had hit upon the most efficient rifle that could possibly be served out to the troops. He had heard the efficiency of the short rifle at long range questioned. At distances of 1,000 or 1,500 yards he was informed that the shooting with the short rifle was not so good as it used to be with the longer barrel. If that were so they might be purchasing a lighter rifle at the cost of efficiency. He did not mention names, but he had seen a rifle invented by a private gentleman, who was the brother of a distinguished general officer, who had spent a great deal of money and time in perfecting it, which possessed many advantages over the short rifle, because it brought the barrel further back into the butt, thus doing away with the small. This gentleman had succeeded in producing a rifle, and although it possessed a long barrel it was nevertheless shorter than the new rifle. This new invention had been reported favourably upon by the highest authorities, but he had not heard that there was any prospect of its being adopted. He wished to know if the right hon. Gentleman had given this matter his personal attention, because the greatest economy they could have was to obtain the very best rifle that could possibly be procured; and no hide-bound adherence to anything that had gone before should prevent the War Minister adopting the most up-to-date rifle. One of the reasons given against this reform was that the Department did not wish to make any change until some automatic rifle had been discovered. He thought it was very questionable whether an automatic rifle would possess any great advantages over the present rifle, when placed in the hands of the ordinary private soldier. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to state at what rate the Army was being supplied with the new rifle, and also whether he had satisfied himself that the new rifle which was being produced was the very best that could be supplied to the Army at the present time.

MR. ABEL SMITH (Hertfordshire, Hertford) said he could endorse what had been said in regard to the effect of the policy of the War Office authorities at Enfield. It was entirely owing to that policy that the number of unemployed had grown in that neighbourhood. A few years ago a large number of men were discharged from the small arms factory, and a very lamentable state of things had existed for a considerable time. He ventured to ask the late Government to preserve as far as possible the normal level of employment in the Government factories and not to make the sudden changes which had caused so much distress on the previous occasion. He asked the Secretary of State for War what was the present state of employment in the small arms factories, and what was likely to be the effect of the policy recently carried out by the War Office in transferring a small arms factory to Sparkbrook. He should like also to ask what were the prospects of employment in the bayonet department. He was told that there was very little work in the department, and that in consequence a considerable amount of distress was being caused. Reference had been made to the policy of the War Office in giving orders to private firms. He looked at that from a point of view different from that of hon. Gentlemen below the gangway. He looked at it from the point of view of those who were normally employed in the small arms factory at Enfield, many of whom he had the honour of representing in this House. He admitted that it was necessary for the Government to give orders to private firms so that they might be able to get an increased supply of small arms in times of pressure. It was perfectly true that there was a large amount of costly machinery standing idle, which had practically never been used since it was set up. The keeping up of the establishment involved a large sum for depreciation every year, and that was a very serious matter, deserving of the earnest attention of the War Office. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see whether it was not possible to keep the machinery better employed, in order that the time of stress which had occurred lately might not occur again. He thought the men there had behaved extremely well; there had been little or no agitation amongst them. They only asked for bare justice when they appealed for more regular employment.

MR. HALDANE said it had been correctly stated that it was part of the policy of the Government to give a certain amount of encouragement to private contractors, so as to provide for expansion of supplies in times of national emergency. But at the same time the Government's own factories must be their first care. The hon. Member had complained of certain machinery in Government factories standing idle. That must be so, because provision had to be made in these factories for expansion in time of war. He could say nothing definite as to the prospects of employment in these factories, except that he saw no reason to suppose the prospects were bad. Naturally, it was the policy of the nation in times of peace to limit expenditure upon armaments all round, and they could not expect the same amount of employment at places like Enfield that they would have in time of war, or when things looked more unsettled than they did now. The hon. Member for North Ayrshire had raised the question of the short rifle. Since he had been at the War Office he had considered this matter very carefully, and before he assumed office he considered it for five years on the Explosives Committee. He was satisfied that at the present time it was the best and most serviceable weapon we could give our troops. It was quite a mistake to suppose that there was an enormous advantage in having a long barrel. Experience showed that with a short barrel almost as good results could be obtained, together with the advantage of a much lighter weapon. The shooting competition between the Guards and the Middlesex Volunteers the other day showed what rapid and fine shooting could be done with the short rifle. India had reported strongly in favour of the short rifle and tests here had worked out strongly in its favour. The idea of its having a larger kick had now passed away, and everywhere he went he found a pretty general consensus of opinion that we had hit upon the best weapon for the present. He said "for the present," because, unfortunately, there was nothing in which changes came more rapidly than in engines of war. It was not unlikely that in a few years we might have an automatic rifle all over the civilised world. That automatic rifle had yet to be discovered. The United States, who were an extremely practical nation, were following us in arming their entire Army with the short rifle. The balance of testimony was so strongly in favour of the short rifle as to make it wrong for him to arm our troops with any other rifle. There had been no waste of money in making short rifles, because the plant for making long rifles was worn out, and new plant had to be laid down. He could not state the exact date when the re-arming with the short rifle would be complete, but the process of re-arming was proceeding rapidly. As regarded the fees paid to members of the Explosives Committee and the Ordnance Committee, it had been found desirable, as more skilled evidence was being taken from experts, that certain of them should be paid, and two were now being paid a moderate sum, considering their great eminence and the value of the work they did. The civilian members of the Ordnance Committee were paid a moderate compensation, and the Government were glad to get assistance so cheaply. The question of bayonets had not yet been settled.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that with reference to an item for fourteen chemists in the Vote, he wished to make the suggestion, which he thought would be congenial enough to the right hon. Gentleman, that the time had come for an amalgamation of the offices of the head chemists of the great departments. The Admiralty, the War Office, and other departments were constantly in need of chemical advice, and this country was in a position generally inferior to that of other countries in regard to metallurgical knowledge. Having regard to what was being done in South Kensington, they might concentrate in the hands of a person of recognised authority in metallurgy the scientific work required. He remembered that as the result of a conference between that eminent man, Professor Glazebrook, the Director of the National Physical Laboratory, and the manufacturers, an enormous improvement in the manufacture of carbons had been brought about, and orders for the Admiralty formerly sent to France were retained in this country. There should be at the head of a central institution an officer having under him a corps of chemists and analysts who would be always at the disposal of the Government.

MR. HALDANE said that since the Estimates were framed he had carried out a reorganisation of the chemical department. The Explosives Committee no longer existed in the old form. It was now practically united in its work with the Ordnance Committee as a Chemical Research Committee to which would drift the whole of the scientific work at Woolwich. The testing of steel could only be done by very fine apparatus, and the place where the work should be done was the National Physical Laboratory, to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with his warm concurrence, had made a grant of £10,000 for the improvement of apparatus He agreed that one of the most valuable things that the Government could do would be to carry these arrangements a step further and have a corps of experts, whose business would be to co-ordinate the scientific work of the department, thus saving wasteful expenditure. In the organisation of such matters Germany, France, and the United States had reached a height we had not touched. Until we were more in earnest about them and the interest of Parliament had been awakened we should continue to be in what to his mind was a situation of peril.

*MR. BRANCH (Middlesex, Enfield) said that when Members remembered that the township of Enfield was built up for the purpose of supplying armaments to the nation, they would agree that it deserved some consideration at the hands of the Government. The men attracted into the town to work in the Government arms factory were sober and industrious; they had built their own houses and schools for their children; and if so many were to be discharged they would be compelled to sell their houses at a loss. There was no other industry in Enfield, and the orders for rifles were being sent to other towns where there were other industries to which the discharged men could be drafted. Besides, in the factory at Enfield 50 per cent. of the machinery would be standing idle, and both that machinery and the recent large additions to the buildings on which £40,000 had been spent, would be depreciated. He trusted that the Government would do all that was possible to sustain the work at Enfield.

*MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire) said he wished to call attention to the armaments supplied to the Volunteer Garrison Artillery in the West of Scotland. The guns were obsolete, and that was a state of things which was discouraging to the members of the Volunteer force. He noticed that a large sum was down for the re-armament of the Field Artillery, and he suggested that some portion of the armament superseded should be devoted to supplying guns of a modern type to the Garrison Artillery.

MR. HALDANE said he had the greatest sympathy with the case which had been brought forward by his hon. friend, not only in regard to the Volunteers in Argyllshire, but in every other part of the country. He quite agreed that the guns which they had to work were of an obsolete type, and absolutely useless for the purposes of national defence. One of the reforms he hoped to institute was to assign to the Volunteers a definite function and to give them not obsolete guns to work with, but something that would contribute to the national defence. That was the policy of the Government, but it could not be adopted piecemeal, and he was afraid that his hon. friend's constituents would have to wait for new guns until the War Office had worked out this scheme in all its details.

Vote agreed to.

5. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £2,353,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge of Barrack Construction; for Works, Buildings, and Repairs, at Home and Abroad (including Purchases of Land), and for the Staff in connection therewith, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1907."

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER hoped that he would be in order on this Vote in calling attention to a matter to which he had alluded earlier in the debate. He then called attention to the question of the Norwich Barracks, which he took as typical of other cases. He thought it was to be regretted that the people of Norwich should have received the slap in the face to which they had been subjected by the War Office. It did seem to him to be desirable to establish good relations with localities. There was hardly a town in England or Scotland which had not shown a desire to co-operate with the War Office in regard to the provision of sites for barracks. The present situation was most unsatisfactory, as a hundred years ago barracks were put on sites which had become most unsuitable at the present time. Barracks in those days were erected in places for the reason that there had been riots and it was desirable to have the Military in the neighbourhood. The reason for the existence of the barracks in those places, however, no longer existed.

Again barracks were a hundred years ago erected in places which then were open country, but the buildings were now surrounded by a large town population. Moreover, many of these barracks were in a most unsound and insanitary condition, and the right hon. Gentleman knew that in saying this he did not exaggerate the facts of the case. The barracks at Coventry were 140 years old, while the barracks at Norwich were in every respect unfit for the accommodation of a regiment of cavalry. He could mention many other barracks which were entirely obsolete and could not be reconciled with any modern point of view at all. He thought that an enormous amount of good might be done by getting rid of the barracks which now existed in the wrong places and establishing them in the right places. The non-erection of the proposed barracks on Salisbury Plain and the stoppage of the proposed buildings at Stobs and Bulford, a policy which had resulted in a great saving of money, had made this course all the easier. He thought that London was one of the places where the course of action he had advocated might be pursued with greater advantage than anywhere else. The London barracks were particularly bad. In regard to Wellington Barracks, he would undertake to say that no Secretary of State would care to allow an officer coming from abroad to inspect them, and yet this was the place where the officers and men of the King's Guard were housed. The drainage was very bad and the buildings were of such a character that they should not be used for their present purpose in the Metropolis of a great empire. There were many sites in London which might be utilised for the erection of barracks for the Guards, and the site of Wellington Barracks if properly utilised might be made most remunerative. There was a great deal of property owned by the Government in London, but under our present system we divided the ownership of Crown property among a number of trustees. There were the Board of Works, the Department of Woods and Forests, the Army, the Metropolitan Police and one or two other bodies, all of whom owned Crown property. None had yet been able to arrange any harmonious working between these bodies, and they all acted independently one of another. Perhaps the reason for this was that each of these Departments had a staff of clerical officials, lawyers and so forth, who felt that their existence was to a certain extent bound up with that of the Department which they represented. Wellington Barracks occupied one of the finest sites in London and had every fault that a barrack could have. It was too large for one battalion and too small for two. It seemed to be a barrack built for a battalion and a half—a most unsuitable plan. The site, however, if properly utilised, might be made the most remunerative site in London, and might bear upon it one of the finest facades in Europe. It could indeed be made use of in such a way as to prove extremely profitable. The site of the Duke of York's School was about to be abandoned, and he thought that a little ingenuity and a little exercise of business faculty should make it possible to transfer the King's Guards from the Wellington Barracks to the site of the Duke of York's School. Another suggestion which he ventured to urge upon the right hon. Gentleman was whether it was not possible to make some better use of Chelsea Hospital, which was a very beautiful and a very well situated building. He could not help thinking that for its present purpose it was no more suitable than Greenwich Hospital used to be in regard to the Navy. The old men who under existing arrangements finished their lives in Chelsea Hospital would be far better looked after if they were allowed to go and live at home with their friends, and then that great site and that beautiful building might be utilised for other Army purposes That something would have to be done in regard to the London barrack accommodation was shown by the fact that, until within a few months ago, the married quarters of the Brigade of Guards, the finest regiments in the army, were in a condemned workhouse within 500 yards of the Royal Palace. That state of things went on for years, and unless some strenuous action was taken was likely to occur again. Perhaps something might be done for the reform of our barrack system and expenditure by allowing some of the men to reside outside the barracks. This should be possible as the men became older and there were a greater number of long-service men in the Army. Such a system, however, would not be desirable in the case of young men. He did not think it would be desirable for them to remain out of barracks in places where they had no homes, or relatives, or friends, but he did think it was possible in regard to a certain number of men who had passed a certain age and had good characters. In his judgment the money spent on new barracks had not been well spent. There had been many faults even in the construction of the new barracks, and he could give ludicrous instances of the way in which the faults to be found with old barracks had been repeated in new barracks. There was a way of putting a stop to this sort of thing. Plans of a novel kind had been drawn up, with the approval of all the officers concerned and with the consent of the War Office, for constructing barracks upon totally different lines. Those plans had been drawn up by the architect who designed the great Rowton Houses in London and Birmingham, and no one had a greater experience than that gentleman of how properly to house a large number of men in a building. Those designs would have been put into execution in the case of the new barracks at Norwich which had been stopped. Such barracks would be the best advertisement of the British Army that we had ever had; they would have a beneficial effect upon recruiting, and reconcile the friends and relations of men to their going into barrack life. The newest military barracks in the United Kingdom were at Colchester. He knew the new barracks at Colchester well enough, but all he could say was that if they were to be considered as an example which ought to be followed, we had a good deal to learn. Those barracks were, as all others were, the necessary outcome of the present method of construction. He earnestly hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would not lose sight of the enormous help that would be given to recruiting, and to the welfare of the Army generally, by improving barrack accommodation. What he had already stated showed that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State had already learnt a good many details of many important questions; but if he required further enlightening let him go to the central recruiting station at St. George's Barracks. It was now located in St. George's Square, at the back of the National Gallery, an old George II. building, which was utterly unworthy of being the entrance by which a man got into the British Army. His idea was that the recruiting station should be in a fine building on a main thoroughfare, that a man would be proud to enter, and which his friends would be proud to see him enter. He knew from practical experience that when the recruiting station was brought out of a slum and put into a main thoroughfare it had an immediate effect on recruiting. If a better class of man was to be obtained it was necessary to improve the whole character of the barracks and the character of their surroundings. The Winchester Barracks, which were a depôt of eight battalions, were bad in every particular; they were near no exercise or recreation ground, and by an act of Providence they were burnt to the ground. But what happened? The whole thing was built up brick by brick on the same foundation. The hospital was omitted. The sergeants' mess — a mess of eighty sergeants—was a barrack-room with a curtain in the centre, on one side of which was a billiard-table, and on the other accommodation for only half the number of the mess. The change which all desired to see in the Army could only come about when barracks were built in the same way as civil buildings were constructed. He trusted that the little that had already been done in this direction might be followed to a larger extent by the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. HALDANE said the state of things which existed all over the country only illustrated the extraordinarily haphazard way in which barracks had been built, and millions of money had been wasted in their construction. He quite agreed that the condition of the Norwich barracks was bad, but it was not so bad as the condition of two or three others he could name. Norwich was not the place where the need of barracks was most urgent. What he was trying to do was to take the worst cases, rebuilding where it was necessary, but on a moderate scale. When money was short one could only deal with places which were insanitary and dangerous. It was not a case of hardship or of comfort. The first essential was that these places should be made sanitary and safe. The second essential was that they should know for what portion of the military organisation the barracks were to be built. Was Norwich the place in which to build cavalry barracks? He had asked the opinion of a cavalry brigadier upon that, and the answer given to him was that it was more than doubtful. It might be that cavalry barracks would be built at Norwich; he did not say they would not. What he did say was that he was bound to have regard to the expenditure and to see that building was not engaged in where it was not necessary. The Government were now stopping the loans, which had been a source of great waste, and in the future, when these particular items were completed, they were going to put the expenditure for buildings on the Estimates. That, he thought, would have the effect of making them very careful not to engage in any unnecessary expenditure, and would make them think out the consequences before they embarked on any large scheme of barrack construction. One of the most difficult things they had to face was how to spend money in such a way that in a few years it should not be found to have been thrown away. If they had only half the money which had been thrown away during the last ten years it would be of the greatest possible use at the present time. But they could not get it, and therefore they must make the most of that which they possessed, and endeavour to make the barracks what they ought to be. First, they must consider what portion of the forces the barracks were for and then deal with those the sanitary condition of which was the worst. In this way they must progress by degrees until out of the annual Estimates they could put the barrack accommodation into a proper condition.

*Mr. MADDISON (Burnley) said he was extremely glad to hear the answer given by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War. One would imagine from his remarks and his suggestions of big reforms that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had never been at the War Office, but had always been a strong critic of that Office. He was glad the Secretary of State recognised that with regard to barracks he had to do as business men in civil life had to do with regard to their concerns, namely, to consider ways and means. Those who looked forward to substantial reductions in the Army had always taken the line that those reductions should not be made at the expense of the men in the Army. At the same time, they had to remember that there were tens of thousands of brothers and friends of those who joined the Army who suffered from bad housing and bad surroundings. He would resist to his utmost any attempt to make any difference betwen the civil and military conditions to the benefit of the latter, because, after all, the money devoted to the Army was found by the civilian. It was for that reason that many were reassured by the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that he was going to do exactly as he would if he were in business—make the barracks fit for the men to live in, but not embark on a large building scheme. The right hon. Member for Croydon had said that if recruiting stations were erected in main thoroughfares a better class of men would be obtained; but, in his opinion, no real benefit would accrue to the Army. They would have been much disappointed if the Secretary of State had embarked on a large scheme of barrack construction, because they were waiting for a substantial reduction in the number of men in the Army. That they had been promised, and to that promise they intended to keep the Government. The right hon. Gentleman had also stated that he was going to put the building on to the Estimates, and they therefore had now a guarantee that there would be some real economies. The right hon. Member for Croydon, when speaking of the possibility of rebuilding in London, had said these valuable sites might be sold for large sums of money, and that it only needed a little common sense and business ability to rebuild these barracks and effect economies at the same time. The right hon. Gentleman must have known that common sense and business ability had long been strangers to the War Office. Still, if sales could be made of these valuable sites and barracks built elsewhere it might be beneficial. The main point, however, that satisfied him was that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State was not entering into any large building scheme.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he did not know why the hon. Member for Burnley had spoken as he had. He took a totally different view from the hon. Member as to the housing of the Army.

He thought it was our duty to house our soldiers well, and he would like to see followed in this country the system which obtained in France, in the housing of the Republican Guard, whose barracks were a model. He denied that he had advocated any large scheme of barrack expenditure. He had said he thought the expenditure for the existing barracks was excessive. All he suggested was that by a judicious use of the property we had we could get good buildings instead of bad ones. He had given instances where the Army had properties in the centres of our great cities where we had barracks and where no barracks ought to be, and his suggestion was that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State should lose no opportunity of getting rid of those barracks and putting up others where they could be erected more cheaply. His view was that they should ear-mark the sum received from sales of barracks for reconstruction. He entirely repudiated the suggestion that he advocated any large expenditure with regard to the construction of barracks. He had suggested a reform greatly needed, and one which was consistent with economy while it would add to the value of the Army. A man should be able to go into the Army as he went into the Navy. The hon. Gentleman had said that his suggestion would make no difference; but if the service was made more attractive they would get a very large number of the best class of men. What was the secret of the recruiting of the Royal Marines? The answer would be readily found if they examined the conditions under which the men entered that service. They would find men serving in that arm whose fathers and grandfathers had served there before them.

COLONEL HERBERT said he could supply the earlier chapters of the story of which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had given the conclusion with reference to the barracks in London which he had condemned so strongly. He happened to be in command of a battalion at one of those barracks only a few years ago. At that time he brought Lord Rowton and his builder down to inspect the barracks and give an opinion. He was thankful that that seed sown at hazard had been cultivated the right hon. Gentleman, and he was by confident that as the the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had left it at the War Office, the plant would be nourished and brought to maturity. The good housing and good treatment of the Army had more to do with its success than anything else. Anyone who had anything to do with the Army would bear him out when he said that getting value for the money expended had everything to do with the well-being of the Army. The hon. Member for Burnley did not quite appreciate the standpoint from which soldiers regarded Army expenditure. They did not desire excessive expenditure, but value for the money that was expended. They were always crying out for some system which would give the country value for the expenditure incurred. So long as there was expenditure on the Army let the best value be obtained for it. He was quite certain we could not do better than by having a reasonable and sensible system of building barracks. He thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the explanation which he had given, but he would venture to go a little beyond the strict letter of the official voice. This Vote included details ranging from £20,000 for a barracks to £600,000 for instructional railways, and it would at once be seen how difficult it was to discuss these Estimates so long as they were presented to the Committee in this miscellaneous medley. With regard to the sewage farm at Aldershot the details were not specified, but he noticed that the annual expenditure upon it was £20,000, whilst the revenue derived from it was only £12,000. It was impossible from the details given to form any idea of the financial operations that were going on in regard to this sewage farm, and on the face of it, it looked ridiculous to spend £20,000 a year upon something which produced only £12,000. As to the making of instructional railways, military authorities doubted whether the country obtained its money's worth out of them. The multiplication of toy military railways was indeed a doubtful policy. Foreign countries had abolished this form of military instruction. It was now imparted to soldiers through the medium of experience gained on the ordinary railway systems of the country. With regard to devolution, he had had considerable experience in one of the colonies, and he found that they never had any satisfactory hold over the expenditure until they got practically an iron hand over the various amounts to be expended in each of the districts to which the devolution was given. A certain amount used to be allocated to a particular area, and then it was left almost entirely in the hands of the officer commanding to carry out the services. Under that system the commanding officer was given a special inducement to reduce his expenditure, because he was allowed to carry over from one year to another the unexpended balances. He believed that this was the system of devolution which now obtained at the War Office. He thought we had now got officers in command of large districts who were fully competent to administer a very considerable amount of the expenditure upon the services of the country.

*MR. MORTON drew attention to the charge for the rifle range at Salisbury Plain. It was said that the land for this range had cost quite double its market value. As further expenditure was now being proposed upon it, he thought he was entitled to ask whether the same extravagance was being pursued, and what the total expenditure in connection with it had been. With regard to the sewage farm at Aldershot, he hoped his right hon. friend would take care that it was not allowed to pollute the Thames, and poison Members of the House of Commons. He wished to know the total cost of this Salisbury Plain business.

MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.) said he desired to emphasise the need of providing better barrack accommodation for the officers. An officer was supposed to be a man who was most highly educated. And yet there was no barrack-room where he could study his profession. There was a small ante-room in which it was impossible to spread out a large map, and if an officer wanted to look at such a map in order to follow military operations he had nowhere to go but his own bedroom, and this apartment, occupied as it was with uniform, etc., was of little, if any, use for these purposes.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis) said he desired to call attention to the expenditure for the defence of naval bases. In 1903 there was a report issued which showed that the cost of defending naval bases amounted to £10,000,000, and he thought that it was in this direction that a great deal of cutting down of expenditure might be effected by a little co-operation between the Admiralty and the War Office. When these military works were first started in 1897 Vote 10 amounted to £1,115,000, but it was now considerably more than double that sum, the amount being £2,253,000.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was referring to the defence of naval bases, and, as he was informed these were not included in the Vote, they could not be discussed now.

MR. BELLAIRS said fortifications were included in Vote 10. In any case many of the works which had been undertaken on the insistence of the Admiralty had now been abandoned.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have already told the hon. Member that he must not pursue that topic.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said he should like to say a word on behalf of the taxpayers of the country. He felt that the question of barracks was one of the most desperate which concerned the administration of the Army. There was no subject on which civilians had heard more than the total inefficiency of the Army barracks. He was not a military man, but if he were to tell the Committee all the stories he had heard about the condition of barracks he would take a considerable amount of time. What was the cause of this? It was to outsiders a perfect mystery. The Secretary of State had admitted that barracks were very bad, but apparently he could not tell why they were. All that the right hon. Gentleman could say was that an enormous amount of money was wasted by the last Government. The barracks of the country were not built in the last ten years. They were built in the last half century, and long before the late iniquitous Government came into power. In the time of Mr. Gladstone the same kind of errors were made in the construction of barracks as were made in the time of the late Government. He asked the Secretary of State to furnish some reasonable hypothesis of why the Army should be so badly housed. Could not barracks largely be abolished? He would himself be glad to see a wholly different system of Army organisation, under which the soldier would be treated as an employer treated his artisans—allowed to live at home and come every day to the military centre to his work. There was nothing so repugnant to the average Briton as being perpetually under discipline. Such a reform as he indicated would, he believed, increase the popularity of the Army, and not diminish its efficiency.

MR. HALDANE said there was something attractive about the suggestion which had just been made, but he wished the noble Lord had given him a little assistance as to how it could be realised. The suggestion was really impracticable. From the necessities of the soldier's training he must live in barracks, so as to be always kept in hand.

LORD R. CECIL said he quite agreed that what he suggested could not be done at certain periods of the year.

MR. HALDANE said that men were constantly being moved from towns to the training places. He thought many of the Militia troops could live more at home than at the present time, but the regular soldier must to a great extent live in barracks. He hoped the noble Lord would not think that he was disposed to hurl reproaches at the late Administration in an undue sense in this matter of barracks; it was quite unnecessary, because the late Administration were not always of one and the same mind. The work at Tidworth, for example, initiated by one War Minister of the late Government was arrested by his successor, he thought rightly, because it was framed on an enormously extravagant scale. He was going further than the right hon. Gentleman in improving Tidworth faster than he himself would be disposed to do. Rifle ranges were essential parts of military training, and as a matter of fact we had not enough of them; nor did he think the Government were keeping them up on extravagant scale. He was asked why they had increased in 1906–7 the item of staff and salaries in the barrack construction department by £10,000. They had not increased it at all. They only took that amount which used to be charged to loans and put it on the Estimates. The change was really a change in the form of the accounts, and represented no difference in expenditure.

*SIR W. EVANS GORDON said the suggestion of the noble and learned Lord as to the abolition of barracks altogether was somewhat visionary, but he thought that some guarantee should be given to the taxpayer to prevent the recurrence of the costly mistakes in barrack construction. In his belief the cost and inefficiency of those works were due to the fact that their execution was entrusted to persons who were wholly unfit to carry them out. He did not know whether the suggestion originally came from the hon. Gentleman opposite or from his hon. friend below him; but his belief was that the nail had been hit on the head, and that in future these works, whether for repairing or total reconstruction, would be entrusted to really practical people who would safeguard the interests of the taxpayers and prevent the perpetuation of the hideous blunders which had been committed under both Liberal and Conservative Administrations. He did not wish to cast any reflection on the Corps of Royal Engineers; but it was notorious that, in all parts of the world, they had designed and erected buildings highly unsuitable and at very great cost. He trusted that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War would, in future, see to it that properly qualified people were entrusted with carrying out these works. As the answer of the right hon. Gentleman had been unsatisfactory, he begged to move that the Vote be reduced by the sum of £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,352,000, be granted for the said Service."—(*Sir William Evans-Gordon.*)

MR. MORTON said that there was put down a sum of £681,500 for barracks and rifle ranges. How much of that was for rifle ranges and how much for barracks? He could not find it. Then there was the question about the sewage farm at Aldershot. Had the nuisance there been mitigated? It was a danger to the people of London.

MR. HALDANE said that he was informed by his advisers that there was no nuisance from the sewage farm. There had been considerable complaints in regard to the matter, but the nuisance had been mitigated to such an extent that the complaints had ceased to exist. As to the cost for rifle ranges and barracks the sum asked for was for new works, additions, improvements and certain replacements, amounting to less than £2,000; in all, £132,500.

Mr. MORTON: Then all the rest of the money had been spent on barracks?

Mr. HALDANE was understood to agree. The hon. Member opposite had taken exception to the way in which the barracks were built at the present time and to the fashion in which the buildings were carried out. He had pointed out truly that the Royal Engineers were the chief blunderers in barrack construction. One of the recommendations of the Esher Committee was that to a civilian should be assigned the duty of carrying out the work of construction of barracks, and the result was that the work had been taken away from the Royal Engineers. There had not yet been time to see how the new rule would work. But the main cause of the large cost of construction of barracks and other works was the constant change of policy. Until there was a fixed and settled policy in regard to the organisation of the Army the main sources of economy in Army expenditure would not be reached.

Lord R. CECIL said that the right hon. Gentleman had not yet answered the criticism in regard to barracks. The complaint was not only of extravagance, but of total inefficiency. He was told that in both barracks and camps the drains were shockingly out of order. In some cases the walls of the barracks were so thin that the buildings were totally uninhabitable. No change of policy could affect the provision of decent barracks and the curing of bad drains. It was a question of efficiency and not of policy. He should like to know when the new system began or was to come into operation.

Mr. HALDANE said that the civilian staff had been working for eighteen months or a couple of years. The stories as regarded the old barracks were true. Only last week there was a complaint about a barrack built in 1780. In his opinion the real policy for barrack construction was not to build them of too permanent materials, but of light materials; and time would prove how good they were. At present they were building stables on that plan, and he was not sure that that was a policy which was not susceptible of considerable development.

Mr. LAMBTON said that he knew of a barrack where the card tables provided for it were so large that they could not be got through the doors into the rooms.

Question put.

Committee divided:—Ayes, 19; Noes, 134. (Division List, No. 107.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn.SirAlexF.
Arnold-Forster,RtHn.HughO.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bull, Sir William James
Cochrane, Hon.Thos. H. A. E.
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hill,Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Lambton, Hon.Frederick Wm.
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C.E. Howard

Tellers for the Ayes—Lord Robert Cecil and Sir William Evans-Gordon.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Bolton,T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Byles, William Pollard
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick

Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (G'lw'y
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Horniman, Emslie John
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Lehmann, R. C.
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Marnham, F. J.
Molteno, Percy Alport
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Newnes, F. (Notts., Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Malley, William
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembr'ke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rees, J. D.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sears, J. E.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Stranger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thompson, J. W. H (Somerset, E
Tillett, Louis John
Torrance, A. M.
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Wardle, George J.
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

6. £132,000, Establishments for Military Education.

Vote agreed to.

*SIR W. EVANS GORDON rose to discuss the Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order. The hon. Member is too late.

7. £77,000, Miscellaneous Effective Services.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) thought that they were moving too quickly. On the last Vote several Members had endeavoured to catch the Chairman's eye. Upon this Vote he thought they were entitled to know what these Miscellaneous Services were. They had had no explanation in regard to them. During the last Parliament great complaint was made that they voted enormous sums without any question having been put, and without discussion. He thought they were entitled to some explanation in regard to this £77,000.

*SIR W. EVANS GORDON said he did not think that when he rose just before he had been treated quite fairly. The Chairman read out the Vote and did not look up to see if anybody rose to object.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is not entitled to criticise me in any way. I looked and did not see the hon. Member or anybody else rise, and I put the Vote to the Committee. There was no Motion down to reduce it, and there cannot be any criticism about my conduct.

*SIR W. EVANS GORDON said he did not wish to criticise the conduct of the Chair, but he did feel that he sprang to his feet almost immediately upon the Vote being put. He only wished to mention one point, which he had no doubt would be of some interest to the Secretary of State for War, and it would, he thought, conduce to the rapidity of business if he were allowed to make the few remarks which he wished to make. He did not know whether, upon this Miscellaneous Vote, he would be entitled to go into the question of the funds expended upon the examination of officers. He should like to make one or two remarks, if it would be in order.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, but I fear it would not be in order.

*MR. MORTON wished for some explanation of item A, "grants in aid of churches, schools etc., £1,150." He desired to know what churches and schools got this money. The Vote did not say to whom the money went, but he hoped all denominations got their share.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BUCHANAN, Perthshire, E.) said that these grants, he was informed, were given impartially to churches or to nonconformist bodies from whom soldiers and their children received benefit. The £1,150 was only an estimate of the amount which would probably be required during the course of the year in different localities from time to time.

MR. HOUSTON (Liverpool, West Toxteth) asked for details.

MR. BUCHANAN said he could not give them, as the amounts varied from year to year.

LORD R. CECIL thought the Committee ought to have a little more information, because, although the item was small, there seemed to be an important principle involved in it. The State apparently, in places where soldiers were quartered, contributed something towards the charities of the churches which ministered to them and their children. He thought the Committee were entitled to some explanation of the way the money was distributed, because it had a bearing upon another very important discussion which was going on in the House. This seemed to him to be a sort of pan-denominationalism.

MR. HALDANE said it was obvious that the Estimate was not formed on any lavish lines. When soldiers were stationed in country and other districts it was necessary that their religious needs should be attended to, and the State contributed the sum of £1,150 for this purpose.

MR. HOUSTON said the right hon. Gentleman could surely give some details.

MR HALDANE did not see how it was possible to give details as to the particular needs of the year in different quarters of the country.

*MR. MORTON asked what was included under the term "etc." The late Joseph Hume said a great deal might be covered by that term, and that he found on inquiry on one occasion that it meant sherry and biscuits.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT called attention to the increased cost for postal and telegraphic services in the Army. Were the speeches of his right hon. friend telegraphed to the various stations of troops at home and abroad like those of the Under-Secretary of the Colonies? There was a useless expenditure on telegrams, when letters through the penny post would often serve the purpose just as well, as he knew from experience. The Financial Secretary to the War Office, who was a great economist in the past, would perhaps explain how it was that the postal and telegraph expenses had gone up by £1,700.

MR. BUCHANAN said the hon. and gallant Gentleman was aware that these Estimates had been largely re-cast, and in inaugurating the new system it was found that a sufficiently large sum was not estimated for. Therefore a larger sum was inserted in this year's Estimate. With regard to the sum granted in aid of certain churches, etc., it was a contribution in cases where there was no actual church existing.

LORD R. CECIL said he did not attack the amount of the Estimate. In his opinion it was a very proper payment. He only wished that the War Office in this matter would impregnate the Education Office. This was a very proper contribution towards the upkeep of denominational institutions which were carrying on spiritual work in this country. What surprised him was that not a word of protest had been raised by hon. Members opposite who represented the Nonconformist conscience, and who, if this charge had happened to come upon the rates instead of on the taxes, would have gone to prison as passive resisters rather than pay a shilling towards the upkeep of a form of religion which did not please them. He only hoped that after this they would hear less of the great wickedness of spending public money on the upkeep of religious denominations.

Vote agreed to.

[MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid.) took the Chair.]

8. £1,694,000, Half-pay, Retired Pay, and other Non-Effective Charges for Officers, etc.

9. £1,684,000, Pensions and other Non-Effective Charges for Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Men, and others.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER asked the Secretary of State for War whether he had considered the question of adapting Chelsea Hospital to more satisfactory purposes than it now fulfilled. If the right hon. Gentleman inquired he would find that the life of the pensioners there was not particularly desirable, and that the considerations which led to the removal of the naval pensioners from Greenwich applied with even greater force to the pensioners in Chelsea Hospital. He believed that with a little management the whole of the pensioners might be removed to happier surroundings, and he therefore hoped the right hon. Gentleman would carry further the inquiry, which had been already made, and bring it, if possible, to a satisfactory conclusion.

MR. COCHRANE said he was encouraged to raise the question of compensation to soldiers for injuries sustained when not on active service by the fact that the Secretary of State for War had earlier in the day expressed himself as being anxious that the Department over which he presided should be model employers. A soldier who met with an accident when on active service received a gratuity on a fixed scale, and if he lost his life a limited number of his dependents received compensation. A soldier engaged in quasi-civilian employment, however, did not stand on the same footing. The other day a Question was asked in the House as to a farrier who when out with the Yeomanry was kicked by a horse and permanently injured. After his three months training he was unable to carry out the civilian duties in which he had been previously employed, and he received no compensation whatever. Had he been a civilian instead of a soldier he would have been entitled to receive the value of half his wages for the rest of his life. In this matter he did not think the Department could be altogether regarded as model employers, and there was room for bringing them into line with civilian employers. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman to look into the question. To a Bill now under discussion in Grand Committee he had put down an Amendment which he believed would meet the point, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would use his influence so as to enable the soldier when injured in civilian employment, such as an arsenal, to be treated as well as a civilian working by his side.

MR. HALDANE said he was busily engaged in considering the point last raised. The question was a very complicated one, as the occupation of the soldier was very different from that of the civilian. The question raised by the right hon. Member for Croydon was receiving careful attention. Chelsea Hospital and the adjacent site of the Duke of York's School opened up a large question. Chelsea Hospital, after all, was a national institution, although it might be said that nowadays it was not the best way of making provision for the old soldier. As to the Duke of York's School, a building was being put up elsewhere, and careful inquiry was being made as to what was best to be done with the site of the school at Chelsea.

LORD R. CECIL drew attention to the item of £538 for the chaplain at Chelsea Hospital, which amount was made up as follows—pay, £411; £18 in lieu of servant, £9 in lieu of light, and £100 for assistance. There was a very mysterious item on another page, £3 for an orderly for Presbyterian services. He should be glad to be told exactly what that item meant. There was also a very considerable item, £6,343, for schoolmistresses. Were they attached to the Army, or were they brought in from outside, and to what denomination did they belong?

*Mr. MORTON asked whether the chaplain at Chelsea Hospital was a Nonconformist, or whether the poor old pensioners had definite Church teaching shoved down their throats. He knew several old soldiers from Sutherlandshire who would naturally be Presbyterians, and they ought not to be led astray by definite Church teaching. The cost of the staff connected with the management of Chelsea Hospital was £29,100. That certainly seemed to be an extraordinary sum to pay simply for the official staff in the office to look after, he presumed, the governor, deputy governor, and secretary. He desired to point out the item of £100 for allowance for the master of Kilmainham Hospital for garden expenses, in addition to his pay and allowances as Field Marshal Commanding the Troops in Ireland. What a Field Marshal had to do with a garden he could not understand. He did hope the Secretary of State for War would cut off such an extraordinary allowance, and would not allow the Commander-in-Chief to hold the office of master of Kilmainham Hospital. Either he neglected the one office, or else the other, and probably both. A man who was getting £5,000 or £6,000 a year, and in addition free apartments, fuel, and light, ought not to come on the nation for £100 a year to keep up his little back garden. He was not even sure whether there was a garden there.

Mr. HALDANE said Kilmainham Hospital was really an institution which was founded a long time before Chelsea Hospital in the reign of Charles the Second, and in which a number of old pensioners had lived for a long time past. By an economical arrangement it had been assigned as a residence of the General Officer Commanding the troops in Ireland, and the allowance for garden expenses was simply part of the sum allowed for the upkeep of his house. The rest of the items related to the hospital, which was inhabited by the old pensioners. The case of Chelsea Hospital was very different. He agreed that the item of £29,000 looked formidable, but that was not the cost of running the hospital. The largeness of the sum was because of the great staff which was required to look after the whole non-effective Vote to Army pensioners, which otherwise would have to be done at the War Office. The present arrangement was a very convenient one. The pension list was investigated very thoroughly at Chelsea, and quite as well as it would be at Pall Mall. Considering the enormous amount of complicated work that had to be done he did not think the cost was excessive. Coming to the item for chaplains, he admitted that it looked as if the Army Council managed its affairs on a somewhat different footing from the Education Department, and no doubt it did; but then the Army Council was a body which was very large-minded and took a very comprehensive view of all sections of the clergy. The Army Council superintended the spiritual welfare of all, without distinction of party and without bias. They did not waste money on buildings. The other day he visited one of the smaller establishments, and found a very useful hall, which obviously through the week served the purpose of a gymnasium, and on Saturday night was used for theatrical purposes, after which it was converted so as to be used for religious services on the Sunday. He thought the Committee would do well to leave the Army Council, which, after all, managed these things satisfactorily, the latitude they at present possessed.

Mr. FORSTER said that for some years he represented the Treasury upon the Board of Chelsea Hospital. One reason, he thought, why the vast amount of pension work was better done at Chelsea than it would be at Pall Mall was the fact that a Treasury eye was kept upon the expenditure. Speaking from a very close experience of the work done in Chelsea Hospital, he could say that it was done as carefully and as efficiently as possible. The sympathy shown for the men as well as the pocket of the taxpayer was worthy of all praise.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said he was surprised that such a staunch friend of the Irish cause as the hon. Member for

Sutherland knew so little about the Kilmainham Hospital. The hon. Member had made inquiries about the garden there. He might inform him that there was an excellent, spacious, beautiful garden attached to the hospital, and if the hon. Member was desirous of finding a suitable place to spend his leisure he would recommend him to go there. The Secretary of State for War had given some interesting details as to the way worship was carried on, but he had omitted to say anything about the history of Kilmainham Hospital, over which he would like the right hon. Gentleman to cast his Scottish eye. He was told that the luxury and splendour of Kilmainham Hospital would do credit not only to the Viceroy of India but to the Emperors of Hindustan. He was also told that there was wine galore at Kilmainham Hospital, but he did not know who paid for it. If anybody wished to enjoy good old Irish hospitality of an eighteenth century pattern they could not do better than go to Kilmainham Hospital.

*MR. MORTON said it was obvious from what the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool had said that this was a very serious matter, after all. He was rather astonished at the extravagance which had been alluded to, because the money wasted would be far better spent amongst the poor peasants of Ireland. With regard to the services, he understood that the Presbyterians did not trouble about this Church teaching, because they went out into the woods. He wished to point out, however, that in Chelsea Hospital if they did attend Church they had to listen to this definite Church teaching. He would later on turn his attention to this hospital. He noticed that there was an English Church chaplain and a Roman Catholic chaplain. If Kilmainham was not a hospital why did they want all these officials. Page 106 of the Estimates was covered with officials, and if Kilmainham Hospital was simply a home for the Feld-Marshal commanding the troops in Ireland he failed to see why all these officials were necessary at all. He thought his right hon. friend might easily effect an economy here and insist on the Field-Marshal living upon his salary.

MR. HALDANE said it was obvious that the officers referred to belonged to some other part of the establishment.

Vote agreed to.

10. £180,000, Civil Superannuation, Compensation Compassionate Allowances, and Gratuities.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £559,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for the War Office and Army Accounts Department, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907."

MR. PAUL (Northampton) moved to reduce the Vote by £100 in respect of the salary of the Secretary of State. He did so, he said, to call attention to the degradation of the office of Judge Advocate-General. By making that functionary subordinate to the War Office instead of independent of it, and responsible only to this House, the British soldier had been deprived of his one independent court of appeal. The Committee were no doubt aware that no court of justice could interfere with the decision of a court martial. That could be revised by the Judge Advocate-General, and by him alone. The Secretary of State had said that he himself was responsible to this House, and that, therefore, the authority of this House was preserved. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not consider him discourteous if he said that was a sham. It was impossible for the right hon. Gentleman to revise all the sentences of courts martial. There was no man with whom he was more reluctant to come into any sort of agumentative collision than the right hon. Gentleman. He had known him for thirty years, and what motive he had for defending this nefarious job perpetrated by his predecessors he could not imagine, but he was perfectly certain that it was not an unworthy one, for it was a characteristic of the right hon. Gentleman that he preferred the public interest to his own personal interest. The right hon. Gentleman had two favourite words — "continuity" and "efficiency." Continuity might be a very good thing if it meant perseverance in well-doing, but if it meant the permanence of jobs, it could not be too strongly condemned. As to efficiency, they all desired that every public department in the State should be efficient; but that was a mere platitude, and a platitude was the last thing that would ever come from the lips of the right hon. Gentleman. He had, therefore, to look about for some other meaning of the word. The right hon. Gentleman was a great German scholar, and it was said that he could think in German. No doubt great efficiency prevailed in the public departments of Germany, with the result that the members of the Reichstag might talk as long as they pleased without affecting in any respect the administration of any single Minister whom the German Emperor chose to name. Humble folk who spoke English had to consider their responsibilities as Members of this House to the people who sent them here. They were not disposed to be under the sway of the gentlemen at the War Office, but they were, he thought, prepared to teach them that their masters were the people of the United Kingdom. Under the old system the Judge Advocate-General was responsible to the House, had direct access to the Sovereign, and was a Privy Councillor. When he raised this question before, the right hon. Gentleman was pleased to be very sarcastic with him for attaching any importance to the fact of the Judge Advocate-General's being a Privy Councillor. He (Mr. Paul) did not mean that it was important on account of some ridiculous snobbery as to the address on an envelope, or who should go first out of a dining-room. He attached importance to that distinction because it made the right hon. Gentleman independent of the War Office and responsible to this House alone. He must confess that when he last raised this question on the Motion for the Adjournment for the Easter holidays he was convicted of a blunder. He said then that the Report of the Esher Committee had not recommended that there should be any change in the character and functions of the Judge Advocate-General. He was wrong. He fell asleep in reading the Committee's Report. He was a bad sleeper, and he could confidently recommend that Report to any hon. Gentleman who wanted an admirable soporific. But if he had persevered to the end, if he had got through the remarkable letter in which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London was favourably compared as a military strategist with the Duke of Wellington, he did not think it would have done him much good, because he would not have discovered how a brilliant luminary at the Admiralty, an extinct light of the War Office, and Viscount Esher combined had power to alter the Constitution of this country or repeal the statutes of the realm. The Committee said:—

> "All that is now required is a competent legal adviser to revise the proceedings of general and district courts-martial, and to give such legal advice as the Army Council may desire."

There it was! When the Judge Advocate-General was independent of the War Office, he sometimes gave advice which the War Office did not desire. He was in the habit of reversing the decisions of courts-martial at the average rate of three a week; and as he never interfered except in case of manifest injustice, it was evident that the present state of things might involve the conviction of three innocent soldiers every week. This was not merely a constitutional question. The appointment of Mr. Milvain was not only unconstitutional, but flagrantly illegal, and by this degradation of a great office numbers of British soldiers were placed in imminent and constant peril. The office was a statutory one which could only be altered by statute. There were other statutes affecting the office of Judge Advocate-General. The Parliamentary Reform Act of 1867 provided that a Member of this House holding office under the Crown, on being transferred to another office, was exempted from vacating his seat and seeking re-election. For the purpose of carrying out that object, the second Schedule of the Act set forth all the offices of profit under the Crown which vacated the seats of those accepting them, and which were at the same time tenable by Members of this House. Among those offices was that of Judge Advocate-General. He respectfully submitted that this, if nothing else, made the Judge Advocate-General's office a statutory office, and that no authority short of Parliament, as expressed in an Act of Parliament, could alter it in any respect or degree. He thought that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War, with his many accomplishments, was somewhat disposed to under-rate Imperial minds. He had endeavoured to extract from the right hon. Gentleman some constitutional information in the usual Parliamentary manner by putting Questions on the Paper; but he found that he was going rather too fast; that he was making a constitutional rake's progress. He had given up that method of extracting constitutional information when he found that an office created by one statute, and regulated by many other statutes, was not a statutory office, and that to remove a Minister holding an office by the pleasure of the Crown would be equivalent to the repudiation of the National Debt! Accordingly, he had devoted such poor intelligence as he could command to studying this question by the light of nature; and he had found that it was not quite so difficult as he had supposed. This office, he discovered, was an old constitutional office, entirely independent of the War Office—a post which he had no doubt the War Office very much disliked, because its holder was responsible to this House, and to this House alone. The first change was made during Mr. Gladstone's last Administration. He did not want to mention names, especially the names of dead men, as that might give pain; but it was notorious that this office of Judge Advocate-General had not always been entrusted to the best possible hands. It was sometimes given to a man who was not at first included in the Ministry, and who was not qualified by social rank to be Lord High Commissioner of the Church of Scotland! But there were two names he might mention, because they commanded universal respect in this House. One was the name of a Liberal, Sir George Osborne Morgan; the other that of a Conservative, Sir J. Robert Mowbray. These gentlemen held the office with great ability and distinction; and what they wanted was to have the Judge Advocate-General back again on the Treasury Bench responsible to this House and disregarding the idea of the War Office doing justice to the soldier—a lawyer eminent in his profession and accustomed to deal with evidence and to discriminate facts. There was nothing to prevent that change being brought about to-morrow by a stroke of a pen. The right hon. Gentleman could terminate the appointment of Mr. Milvain, and he had it on the authority of the right hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that if Mr. Milvain were removed from office on grounds of public policy he would have no legal right to public compensation. Mr. Milvain might have a moral claim against the right hon. Gentlemen the Members for the City of London and for Croydon, who misled him as to their legal power, although, after all, if Mr. Milvain did not believe them, what were they to think of their prudence, and if he did believe them, what were they to think of their law? In any case he believed that that moral obligation would be immediately discharged. In 1892, this office having fallen into some disrepute, a Judge of the High Court of Justice was asked to undertake it, without salary. They had it from the present Prime Minister, who was then Secretary for War, that that appointment was intended to be only a temporary one. That Government, however, was short-lived, and their successors continued the appointment for ten years. He did not think that the appointment of Sir Francis Jeune to be Judge Advocate-General could be altogether defended, because, being a Judge, it was impossible to make him responsible to Parliament; but he was—and this was the most important point of the two—absolutely independent of the War Office. On September 14th last year Sir Francis Jeune, then Lord St. Helier, addressed a letter, after the appointment of Mr. Milvain, to the present Attorney-General. He thought it was rather to be regretted that, when a question of this great constitutional importance was raised, neither of the Law Officers of the Crown was in his place. In that letter to the hon. and learned Member for South Leeds, who had expressed a very strong opinion that the appointment of Mr. Milvain was constitutionally wrong and legally bad, Lord St. Helier said that it was essential to the efficiency of his office that the Judge Advocate-General should be wholly independent of the military executive.

He maintained that such an opinion from an eminent Judge, who had held this office for thirteen years, was infinitely more valuable than any report of the Esher Committee, which was, after all, only a Departmental Committee. The question was raised in this House on March 17th, 1904,[†] when the present Prime Minister, who was then Leader of the Opposition, said that the great matter was to have an independent person of sufficient authority and independence to retain the confidence of the Army. Lord St. Helier having died on April 9th last year, why was Mr. Milvain not appointed till September? Was it because Parliament was not sitting, and that even the late House of Commons might have had something to say if they had been told of this most nefarious job? He had nothing to do with the personal qualifications of Mr. Milvain. He was told that Mr. Milvain had been Chancellor of an ecclesiastical diocese; and it might be that the late Government thought that, having been in charge of a portion of the army of the Church militant, he was thereby qualified to command or to advise for legal purposes the more secular forces of the Crown. Everybody supposed he would stand again for Hampstead. The letters patent appointing him were, he was told, regarded by lawyers as a legal solecism, limiting, as they did, the power of the Crown to retain his services, which were to terminate on his attaining the age of seventy years. The document did not, however, even give Mr. Milvain the right to retain the office until he reached the age of seventy. How could a man holding an office tenable with a seat in this House be a permanent member of the Civil Service? How could he come under the statutes which regulated that service? If he could, the late Government might have made their Law Officers permanent officers of the State under letters patent. He could conceive even so great a personage as the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon, when he was Secretary of State for War, saying—and it would only be characteristic and true, "There has never been a War Minister like me before. There is not likely ever to be a War Minister like myself again. I will give myself the one thing which nature has not given me, and that is fixity of tenure. I will humbly recommend His Majesty"—he supposed the right hon. Gentleman is formally humble to his Sovereign—"to make me permanent Secretary of State for War for life." Then the right hon. Gentleman would be like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but standeth firm for ever. Could the Minister for War contend that if such a document had been issued by the right hon. Gentleman, it would have prevented the country from enjoying his own services at the present moment? Of course not, because the first thing which the Government succeeding that to which the right hon. Gentleman belonged would do would be to advise His Majesty to cancel those letters patent and appoint another Secretary of State for War. He could not understand why the Government had not advised the Crown to cancel the letters patent and appoint a new Judge Advocate-General. This was a question between the War Office and the House of Commons. If this appointment was confirmed the War Office would have established its authority over this House and hon. Members would be reduced to the position of members of the Reichstag or the Duma. Then the illustrious persons who condescended to govern the country might do anything they pleased by letters patent, and if the House of Commons presumed to interfere they would be told to mind their own business. He remembered reading a story about the late Sir Robert Herbert, who said of his chief at the Colonial Office—he thought it was Lord Kimberley—

> "When I ask him what the House of Commons will say, he always replies, 'Oh, damn the House of Commons.'"

But the House of Commons would not be damned. He appealed to hon. Members to vote for the Constitution and for the principle that voluntary military service did not take away the elementary right of personal liberty. The House of Commons was the sheet-anchor of personal liberty and popular rights; if that dragged they were lost. He was well aware that comparatively few soldiers had votes, but that was a reason why they should pay not less, but more, attention to their interests. He therefore asked hon. Members to vote for his Amendment, and to vote for the British soldiers, who had been deprived of their only appeal from the tyranny of the War Office. He begged to move the reduction of the vote by £100.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, cxxxi., 1490.

Motion made, and Question proposed. "That a sum, not exceeding £558,900, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Paul.*)

MR. HALDANE said his hon. friend the member for Northampton was a great speaker and a master of rhetoric and had addressed the Committee with great conviction. He rose to address the Committee with equal conviction, although he did not possess his hon. friend's gifts. He had a plain statement to make. He would not have recommended the continuance of the existing arrangement unless he were convinced that the system under which justice was now administered in the Army was better than any system they had had for many a long year. Under this system as he found it, and as he maintained it, was justice administered under the control of soldiers or under the control of the War Office? Nothing of the sort. A lawyer had been appointed to devote his whole time and attention to the revision of these sentences. His hon. friend had not, and could not, attack Mr. Milvain's personal capacity. His hon. friend was quite wrong in thinking that this was a statutory office. This office grew up about the end of the 17th century, and down to the year 1806 the Judge Advocate-General was never in Parliament. It was purely an advisory office, and in the opinion of the most competent authorities it continued an advisory office to the end. It was not the office of a Judge. From 1806 to 1893, with a few exceptions, the Judge Advocate-General sat in the House of Commons. It was a small office in point of salary and there was no definite prospect attached to it, and it came to be regarded as a somewhat easy-going office. The last occupant, in his evidence before the Committee, said his duties occupied him on an average only half an hour a day. The reason was that the work was always done by a deputy. In 1893 Mr. Gladstone found that the office, so far as the work's being done by the Judge Advocate-General himself was concerned, had lapsed into somewhat of a sham, and he appointed a Judge whose salary was not in the Estimates. It was said the intention was that the appointment should be temporary; but it continued to the end of the Liberal Administration in 1895, and then continued right on to 1905. No doubt the Judge gave very valuable advice when his intervention was called for, but substantially the work was done by an official in the Judge Advocate's office. His hon. friend had referred somewhat slightingly to the Esher Committee, but that Committee contained some extremely capable men of business. Among a great many other changes that Committee recommended that the office of Judge Advocate-General should be reconstituted because they considered that under the then existing system the duties were inefficiently performed. They recommended that a lawyer of some standing should be appointed, and that upon him should fall the full responsibility of being Judge Advocate-General. He should not be in Parliament, where his duties would take him away from his work. He should give his whole time to the work, and the Secretary of State should be made responsible for his decisions. That recommendation was carried out by the late Government. It might have been a "job," but all he could say was he had found Mr. Milvain a most competent person. He was responsible to this House for what Mr. Milvain did. For twelve years there had been nobody responsible. During the interregnum from 1895 to 1905 a Judge of the High Court filled the office, but he was not responsible to Parliament, and there was no one responsible for the action of the Judge Advocate-General. The Esher Committee recommended the abolition of the abuse; and to-day the Judge Advocate-General was paid a salary of £2,000 a year, which was the same salary which the old Judge Advocate-General got, devoted the whole of his time to the work and surveyed the cases wholly free from interference on the part of soldiers. His conviction was that the new arrangement was infinitely better than the old. He was in daily contact with the Judge Advocate-General, and saw his papers; and, if anything went wrong, he personally was answerable to the House for any miscarriage of justice.

MR. PAUL said the Judge Advocate-General was subordinate to the War Office.

MR. HALDANE said the Judge Advocate General was a subordinate official of the War Office and for every official of the War Office he (Mr. Haldane) was here to answer. He could only say that the work which was done in the past by men of a different calibre was now done by Mr. Milvain who gave his whole time to it, and for Mr. Milvain's action he (Mr. Haldane) was responsible to the House. After all, the new arrangement was an economical arrangement, and if it was no better than the old arrangement he would say that that was a distinct point in its favour. In the old days a salary of £2,000 was paid to a Judge Advocate-General and a further salary paid to a deputy Judge Advocate-General. The same salary was now paid to the Judge Advocate-General but the office of deputy had been abolished. The change that had been made was not a new one, because they had simply gone back to the state of things that prevailed before 1806. The office was not a statutory one, for the statute to which the hon. Member referred had been repealed long ago, and moreover it did not create the office. In the Army Act there was no creation of this office, which was simply of an advisory character created by the Crown on the advice of Ministers, and it could be abolished in the same way as it had been created. The schedule of the Act of 1867 only mentioned this office as it mentioned half a dozen other offices which were not statutory. In August last year the Government of the day carried out the change, and the obligations which had been incurred could not be got rid of any more than they could get rid of the obligations flowing from a similar contract. When Parliament found that a contract had been made it was its practice to carry it out; and there was a contract with Mr. Milvain, constituted by a series of letters in the first instance between the Army Council and Mr. Milvain, and latterly by the Treasury approving what had been done. Mr. Milvain was offered the office at a salary of £2,000 a year, with a pension at sixty-five or a gratuity. He was to be an ordinary civil servant coming under the Order in Council of 1870 and the Act of 1859. On July 6th last year the Secretary of State wrote to Mr. Milvain offering the post on condition that he devoted the whole of his time to the work, the appointment to be terminated at the age of sixty-five unless specially extended. There was to be an office and a staff, but it was proposed to make reductions in the office establishment. Mr. Milvain replied that he was sixty-one years of age, and it was not unreasonable that he should look forward to holding the office until he reached the age of seventy, but he was willing to forego all claim for pension. The Army Council then referred to the Treasury, and the Treasury wrote that they had no objection to Mr. Milvain's holding the office until the age of seventy, adding that there would be no claim for pension or gratuity on his retirement. Finally, the Army Council appointed Mr. Milvain, in a letter which constituted the contract, subject, of course, to continued efficiency on the part of Mr. Milvain for the duties of the post, until he attained the age of seventy, with no claim for pension or gratuity, and abolished the office of Deputy Judge Advocate-General. It was on these grounds that he appealed to the Committee for support, and not upon any technicalities connected with the filling of the office. He had had six months experience of the working under Mr Milvain, and he found that the system was working exceedingly well indeed, The work was being carried out thoroughly, and was being done with a searching knowledge which had not been shown in the office for a long time. Exercising the best judgment he could in this matter, he believed that the country had obtained a thoroughly good and thoroughly effective working system, and he would be sorry to see it disturbed for the revival of the old inefficient order of things.

MR. PAUL said that the late Sir G. O. Morgan was always at his office from 11 o'clock to 4. This fact proved that there was work in the office to occupy the attention of the Judge Advocate-General for a longer period than half an hour. He suggested also that it might be more convenient to appoint a third law officer of the Crown at the salary of the Judge Advocate-General, while as to a binding contract with Mr. Milvain, he thought that the right hon. Gentleman ignored the letters patent which did not give Mr. Milvain the office until he reached the age of seventy. He had listened to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, and he gathered from him that the Treasury merely said that they had no objection to his retaining the office until he had reached the age of seventy. Of course not. Why should they object? Somebody had to receive the salary. But what they did object to was his receiving any pension, gratuity, or allowance on his retirement. Speaking as a mere layman, instead of, as they knew he was, a distinguished lawyer, the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had told him most distinctly that he could not see that Mr. Milvain would have any claim whatever. There were no doubt cases in which Departments made contracts which were morally binding upon this House; but when the Executive went out of its way, behind the back of Parliament, eluding the observation of Parliament, to make a statutory change of this sort, to the disadvantage of the soldier, he thought it was monstrous to say that the House of Commons was bound by a contract which it was entirely beyond the authority of the late Government to make. He believed that in accepting this appointment and the decision of the right hon. Gentleman to renew it, the House of Commons was allowing its functions to be abused ["No"], and was parting with the legitimate powers it ought to exercise. He had made his protest, and he was afraid, under the circumstances he could, do no more.

Question put.

Committee divided:—Ayes, 27; Noes, 110. (Division List No. 108.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Clough, W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E.Grinst'd
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Grant, Corrie
Hazleton, Richard
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hodge, John

Kelley, George D.
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Parker, James (Halifax)

Radford, G. H.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Russell, T. W.
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Wardle, George J.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Paul and Mr. Byles.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Alden, Percy
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W.C.B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamlets, S.Geo
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.

Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clarke, C. Goddard (Peckham)
Cleland, J. W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fell, Arthur

Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Sir W. Evans-(T'rHam.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Hedges, A. Paget
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Horniman, Emslie John

Houston, Robert Paterson
Hyde, Clarendon
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lynch, H. B.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Marnham, F. J.
Molteno, Percy Alport
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Rees, J. D.
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Stanger, H. Y.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tillett, Louis John
Valentia, Viscount
Verney, F. W.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Original Question again proposed.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

CLASS III.

II. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £26,953, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries of the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police, and of the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District, and the Pay and Expenses of Officers of Metropolitan Police employed on special duties, and the Salaries and Expenses of the Inspectors of Constabulary."

MR. PICKERSGILL asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he would consider the possibility of adding to the addenda of the Commissioner's Report which gave the statistics of crime over the whole area. At present those statistics were all lumped together, and were of little value by themselves, as the vast area was so diverse in character. He would suggest, therefore, that the information should also be given separately for each Metropolitan borough. He also desired to urge that the Metropolitan Police should have one day's rest in seven. At present they had only one day off in fourteen, which was altogether inadequate for the wearying work they had to perform. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that to grant this concession would involve a large augmentation of the force, and that the cost would be so great that it could not be met without exceeding the statutory limit. He thought there were many directions in which economy could be practised in the police force. He remembered the appointment some time ago of four chief constables, and he never could understand why they were necessary. There were many other directions in which economy could be effected right at the top of the tree. Whether the change they were asking for could be achieved by some new distribution of duties or by removing the present statutory limit did not matter so much, but it could not be denied that there was a strong public feeling that these men ought to have at least one day's rest in seven. He begged to move to reduce the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £26,853, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) supported the Amendment. He hoped the Home Secretary would persuade the Commissioners so to reorganise the duties of the police that they might have one day's rest in seven. He would not be a policeman under any circumstances. Surely it was not too much to ask for one day's rest in seven. At a great meeting over which the Archbishop of Canterbury presided an earnest appeal was made that there should be at least one day's rest in seven for all classes and sections of the community. He did not think that there was any class who deserved so well of the community as the police. He knew that there were exceptions here and there, but taking them in the aggregate the Metropolitan Police force were a faithful, honest, useful body of men, and were fully entitled to the concession which was now being asked for.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE (Leeds, W.) said the difficulty in this matter was that of expense, not of organisation. If the Committee thought it right to add £150,000 a year to the cost of the Metropolitan Police, and so to increase the rates, the matter could be dealt with. He was informed that with the police force as it was at present the difficulty of providing one day's rest in seven was extremely great, if not insuperable, and it would be quite impossible without a very large accession of strength. The organisation of the Metropolitan Police was an extremely complicated and difficult matter, and only those who were connected with it really knew what this change meant. So far as he was concerned, he would be extremely glad if he could meet the views of hon. Members upon this point. He would look into the matter closely, but as at present advised, he would be misleading the Committee if he held out hope of meeting the demand of his hon. friends.

MR. C. DUNCAN (Barrow in-Furness) said that working so many days in the week continuously had a demoralising effect upon men, and lowered their tone. To him the whole point seemed to hang upon the number of policemen they appointed. In the provinces, as a rule, there was one policeman to each 1,000 of the population, and therefore he did not see where the difficulty came in when they were dealing with the Metropolis. He hoped the Home Secretary would be able to give more consideration to this question, and he suggested that if he could not give one day's rest in seven he might be able to arrange for two days rest every three weeks.

*MR. MADDISON did not agree that the policeman's duties were of such an exhausting character as had been made out, and it should not be forgotten that in England the term of service was twenty-six years, whereas in Scotland it was thirty-two. He had always felt that perhaps it would have been better if they had moved in the Scottish direction. He agreed with the hon. Member for Woolwich that if there was any body of men to which the community were indebted, it was the Metropolitan Police. A six days working week ought to be regarded as an inflexible standard. He was not one of those who had supported an eight hours day as the legal limit for everybody, but he did say that no man or woman should work seven days in the week. A seven days working week, no matter what the duties might be, should not be imposed on the people of this country. He asked the Home Secretary whether he could not give a definite promise that he would have an inquiry made into the matter, and that he would get a report upon it. The men had a right to demand a six days week whatever the cost.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said that if one day's rest in seven could be allowed it would be very acceptable to the police force, but there could be no doubt that if it was granted there must be a considerable augmentation of the force, and that would mean a considerably increased expenditure. He could not help feeling that he would have more respect for the opinions of the hon. Gentlemen below the gangway if they would only practice what they preached. Notwithstanding assiduous attention to their duties in the House, they were often to be found making speeches on political subjects on Sundays. The hon. Member for Woolwich constantly worked seven days a week. It was only the other Sunday that the hon. Member addressed a large meeting in Sheffield on political subjects.

MR. CROOKS: I was acting as a missionary.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said he did not find fault with the hon. Member for acting as a missionary. He thought the hon. Member for Burnley had also been making political speeches on Sunday.

*MR. MADDISON: The hon. Member is quite mistaken.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said there was a consensus of opinion as to the success with which the police coped with their duties in the regulation of traffic, the preservation of order, and the detection of crime. It was quite evident that an additional holiday could only be given by incurring a considerable amount of additional expenditure. He was informed that in the last three years not a single fugitive from justice who had come from France to London had failed to be arrested here. That was an extraordinary tribute to the great success with which the Metropolitan Police coped with their duties.

*MR. GLADSTONE said that the ratio of police to population varied in different places. Why was it that provincial places had not given their police a six days' week? If the ratio question was so easy of solution, why had they not adopted the principle of one day's rest in seven? Anybody responsible for a Department naturally found great pleasure in making concessions if they could to those over whom they had control. There was no finer body of men in the world than the 16,000 men comprising the Metropolitan and City Police. He was only too ready to give the assurance for which hon. Members asked. He had inquired into the matter already and he would inquire into it again and see if there was any means of getting in the thin end of the wedge if he could not get the whole thing at once. He agreed that every worker ought to get one day's rest in seven, though there were numbers of people who often worked the whole seven days. He could assure hon. Members that he had already inquired into this matter, with the result he had stated, and while he agreed to a great extent with what had been stated by the hon. Member, he would undertake to look into it again and see whether anything more could be done.

*MR. MORTON said that the general feeling in this country, outside of religious matters, was that there should be one day out of seven in the week for rest. And he thought that the police perhaps might be granted that one day's rest without very great expense; but he (Mr. Morton) fully recognised that the Home Secretary was right in considering the ratepayers.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) asked the Home Secretary, in the course of his inquiry to call for confidential reports from the medical officers of the police as to the effect on the physical condition of the police officers of working all these long hours. We had already paid very dearly by way of sick pay for the men working seven days a week. He knew men who had been turned out of the force after ten or twelve years service on the ground that they were physically unfit for the work, and although they got a gratuity they received no pension. Everybody believed that by shortening hours of labour more efficient service was obtained.

MR. PICKERSGILL said he accepted the assurance of the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary that he would look into this matter, and therefore he asked leave to withdraw his Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £394,255, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1907, for the Expenses of the Prisons in England, Wales, and the Colonies."

*MR. ERNEST H. LAMB (Rochester) said he gave notice of Motion some weeks ago to move to reduce this Vote by £100, in order to draw attention to the long hours worked by the prison warders in his constituency—hours considerably longer than were provided for by the standard regulations and much in excess of those worked by warders in other establishments. Since putting down his notice of Motion, however, his constituency had been honoured by a visit from the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office, who had been down personally to Borstal Prison to see things for himself; that being so, he was satisfied the Home Office were looking into the matter, and he would not, therefore, on this occasion move the Motion standing in his name. He appreciated the fact that they had at last a Government in power who were really anxious to look after the interests of the workers. Perhaps it was only natural, considering the short time they had been in power, that thye should desire time to look into the many grievances that had been brought to their notice. He hoped, however, that before this Vote came up for discussion next year shorter hours and better conditions would have been conceded to the warders in Borstal Prison, otherwise it would be necessary to draw attention to the matter again.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said that he would be untrue to his strongest convictions if he did not speak on this Vote. He wished to refer to two events which had recently occurred. One was the release of Jabez Balfour and the articles which had been written by him, and the other, which was to him personally of a more painful character, was the lamented death of his very dear friend Mr. Michael Davitt. He was induced to enter into this question as regards Mr. Michael Davitt because that gentleman was a member of the Grand Committee of this House which sat and considered the Prisons Bill. Fifty years hence the prison treatment of to-day would be regarded with the same incredulity and horror with which we regarded the state of things under which a man was formerly sent to Tyburn for stealing a sheep. Some of the evils of the system which existed at the time of the Grand Committee to which he had referred and which were supposed to have been removed still survived. What was the first principle of the present system? It was that of starvation. It was only after conversation with an hon. friend of his that he began to realise what that item in our prison treatment meant. His friend was sentenced when a young man, in connection with the publication of an Irish newspaper, to a long period of penal servitude. He met his hon. friend some time afterwards and he gave him some details of what prison life was like, and although it was quite thirty years ago since that conversation took place, he remembered the effect which it made upon his mind at the time. His hon. friend stated that one of his companions, Michael Moore, a blacksmith, suffered so terribly from hunger, that he, being a smaller man with a smaller appetite, used to pick up snails and pass them on to Moore, who used to swallow them. His hon. friend also told him, as he had told this House in a memorable speech, that he saw men going to the sewers and picking up offal and rotten meat and bones and tearing the meat off the bones and eating that description of foul refuse in order to appease their hunger. When they brought these facts before the House and before the Grand Committee, after a struggle a number of members of that Committee succeeded in getting the "starvation scale" removed from the prison dietary. When they had done that, he thought they had accomplished something. They had accomplished nothing. He had heard many stories since which went to prove that starvation still existed. Oscar Wilde was reported to have said, speaking of this matter—

> "Can you imagine what it is to have a horrible sense of gnawing at your vitals all hours of the day—the very last sensation when you go to bed, the sensation that disturbs you in the watches of the night, and the sensation with which you begin the day?"

He happened to mention this statement to a gentleman who was a Member of the Grand Committee and he said, "Oh, Oscar Wilde is an emotional and impressionable person and you must not pay any attention to what he says," which was the characteristic way in which we often treated sorrows that we did not feel ourselves. But he thought a more recent justification for his action in calling attention to this matter was to be found in the articles by Mr. Jabez Balfour. He had read those articles with a keen and poignant interest, and there was one impressive statement in his letters which stood out. He should state to the Committee that Mr. Jabez Balfour himself said that he was not one who suffered from the prison diet. Mr. Jabez Balfour was a brave man and had made up his mind to meet his punishment, and he was a man, who having a very poor digestion, made up his mind that the only way in which he could preserve his health and sanity was to take as little food as he could. He therefore made no complaint for himself and stated that he even gave his food to other people, but the article contained this terrible sentence, which he commended to the attention of the President of the Local Government Board—

> "I solemnly declare that to a great number of prisoners penal servitude is one long hunger."

Possibly the diet might be sufficient, taking the test of doctors and chemists, to keep body and soul together. But that was not enough. He himself had had the testimony of prisoner after prisoner that men of robust physique, large frame, and vigorous appetite constantly suffered from hunger. Mr. Lynch, whom he met the other night and who had suffered imprisonment, had supplied him with some particulars. Here again he had the evidence of a brave man who distinctly said he did not suffer from an insufficiency of food. In these notes Mr. Lynch told him that he had seen prisoners constantly around him suffering not merely privation but fierce physical torture from the want of sufficient food. The right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary was, as everyone knew, one of the most humane of men; but they would find that the machine and tradition was more powerful than the humanity of the right hon. Gentleman. He warned him that, in spite of all his good intentions, the system would prove too powerful for him unless this Parliament used Committee pressure to adjust the balance. This feeling of hunger was constant. In one of these articles Mr. Jabez Balfour described how prisoners had come and begged of him, with tears in their eyes, to give them a few crumbs of bread. To inflict constant hunger on any man, whatever his crime might be, was not only torture but it was also a disgrace and a shame to the nation which inflicted it. That was only one of the many evils of the present system. He was not going to distinguish between the treatment meted out to political prisoners and ordinary criminals; but he would intrude upon the Committee some torturing effects of prison treatment which had been familiar to him for many years. One man who was imprisoned with his hon. friend was named Kelly. Two days after he was released he threw himself into the Liffey. Another man died two days after he was released from prison; and so he might go on with the horrible calendar of men who sought relief in death from the miserable tortures which they had suffered in body and mind in our gaols. In point of fact one of the things which occurred with painful regularity was the constant threat of the convict to commit suicide—a threat in many cases carried out. It seemed to him also that there were other ways in which it was sought as far as possible to torture these unfortunate prisoners; and torture might be as great if it were mental as if it were physical. Let them take the construction of the cells: they were so constructed that the light of day scarcely penetrated into them at all. There was a very small window and even that was so formed that the sunshine itself became almost darkness by the time it penetrated the cell. He did not know whether he differed constitutionally from others, but to him darkness, specially during the day, amounted to torture. And when they realised that hundreds and thousands of people every day were shut up at five o'clock in the evening in these cells for the night, at a time when other people were enjoying the translucent tranquility of the cool of the evening, they must admit that the torture to these unfortunate people must be very great. What was the reason? We were entitled to detain these people and keep them from mischief, but we were not entitled to torture them. So much was this the case that he believed when the time came round for the prisoners to exercise they rushed into the yard as boys rush out of school. He also objected very strongly to the rigidity with which the silent system, so-called, was maintained in the prisons. As a matter of fact conversation went on among the convicts, but with the knowledge that punishment might result. Provided the old criminals were kept from the young he did not see why these poor people should not have the consolation of talking twice a week. The late Mr. Davitt complained that this was one of the worst sufferings of convict life. What was imprisonment for? If the object of inflicting all this suffering on the convict was vengeance we had no right to call ourselves a Christian nation. If discipline and reformation it was brutalising and demoralising, making the criminal not better but worse. There seemed to be a contradiction. We seemed to go out of our way to find means of making prison a place of moral reform, and yet the whole system was brutalised. Everyone he had consulted on the subject agreed that the convict was always in a state of hysteria and sometimes on the border of madness. Murderous assaults upon warders, which of course must be kept down and severely punished, were frequently due to an outburst of insanity. In fact, one had only to study the history of prisons to find that lunacy was a terribly common thing, and that prisoners were constantly doing things which were more like the acts of hysterical girls than of strong men. They smashed the things in their cells and did all sorts of senseless and wanton things although they knew severe punishment almost immediately followed; but they were in such a state that they had no longer any proper control over themselves. He asked for a committee to inquire into the subject, but desired that it should not be a departmental committee dominated by officials who were always more or less under the influence of the system and the tradition which they inherited. The whole origin of our bad prison treatment was that it had been dealt with like so many other things. A rotten rafter had been taken out here, and a decayed foundation there, and we had always contrived to build a good fabric on a rotten foundation. He asked for a select committee by preference. He suggested that there should be on the committee a large representation of the Labour Party, who knew that crime was largely a question of environment. The criminal class was perhaps the most friendless class of the community. They were considered to be outside the pale of humanity. Human beings, whatever they did, ought not to be outside the sympathy of their fellow-men and women. He believed he had only done his duty in trying to make the Committee feel the great wrong of an odious system that was being kept up in this country, and that it was unworthy of our civilisation to maintain it any longer without drastic reform.

*MR. GLADSTONE said that on this important question he could speak from his experience as Chairman of a Committee which in 1893 went exhaustively into all these questions. At that time he visited a great number of prisons and looked into many practical questions, using his own judgment without official leading. He had not, however, had sufficient notice that the question of diet would be brought forward that day.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said he must apologise, as he did not know the subject was coming on, and had himself to send for his papers in the course of the evening.

*MR. GLADSTONE said he only stated the fact. He must ask the Committee to observe that in the course of his very eloquent and interesting speech the hon. Gentleman had not entered into any detail with regard to the question of diet. He had founded his observations on the evidence of two or three gentlemen, who no doubt—especially the late Mr. Davitt, whose death they must greatly deplore—spoke with great authority on prison treatment. Nearly all of them, however, had their experience under the old system of diet. Mr. Jabez Balfour had five or six years experience under the new system. The old system, under which he agreed food was somewhat deficient, was altered in 1901, but naturally the experience of the deficient system would make a lasting impression on him. Mr. Oscar Wilde was also imprisoned under the old system. As his hon. friend had brought serious charges against all who were responsible for the prison methods, he would ask hon. Members to suspend their judgment until they had had an opportunity of satisfying themselves whether the charges made were true today or not. The hon. Member had said that fifty years hence people would be simply amazed when they considered the prison treatment at the present time. It was equally possible and probable that fifty years hence people would be wondering at the dress they were wearing, and the life they were now leading in the House of Commons. They had to judge the system now. His hon. friend had spoken of the prison diet and prison treatment as if they were too dreadful for words. The language used might have some application to the quality of the diet in prisons 100 years ago; but from his own knowledge he could say that the language used was an exaggeration if applied even to the experience in prisons ten years ago; for he had tasted the food himself in prison after prison, and had examined witness after witness. The hon. Member for the Scotland Division did not mention the Committee appointed to inquire into this question of diet. Such a Committee was appointed, and reported to the Secretary of State, with the result that in 1901 a new dietary was introduced. In 1904–5 the average cost of food was £5 1s. 9d., or £1 9s. 9d. more than the old diet. That was a very large change which his hon. friend never even mentioned. Other large changes were also made in 1901. The opinion of the medical authorities was that the new diet had had an extremely beneficial effect. Under the present system only 30 per cent. of the prisoners lost weight, whereas 60 per cent. gained weight. Under the old system 73 per cent. lost weight. Then the "silent" system had been changed. Long-sentence prisoners were allowed to talk at meals and at exercise. New regulations had been made in regard to the number and the character of the books supplied. The crank and the treadmill had gone, and prisoners could now acquire technical knowledge of a trade. Moreover, a prisoner could earn money, which he could take with him from prison; he could earn marks by which he could obtain a remission of his sentence; and there were greater privileges in regard to visitors. The Borstal system was being applied to all the prisons in the country. No prison official had ever done such valuable work in the cause of the prisoners as the present Chairman of the Prison Commissioners. He was sorry that the hon. Member had not recognised the great work which Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise had done, and was continuing to do. He hoped the Committee would reserve judgment, and look carefully into this matter.

And, it being Eleven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow; Committee also report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHTS BILL.

The order for the Second Reading of this Bill having been formally read after Eleven o'clock, Mr. Caldwell objected.

*MR. GLADSTONE appealed to the hon. Member for Mid Lanark to withdraw his objection, and allow the Bill to pass its Second Reading. The Government were entirely in favour of the measure.

*MR. CALDWELL said that the Bill on all essential points was a complete reversal of the decisions arrived at by the Standing Committee on Law and by the House on report on the Musical Copyright Bill, 1904; and in these circumstances he felt that some opportunity should be afforded for discussion on the Second Reading. He adhered to his objection.

Second Reading accordingly deferred till To-morrow.

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 8th June, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords]; Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Newport Corporation Bill [Lords]; Trent Navigation Company Bill [Lords]; Manchester Churches Bill [Lords]; Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [Lords]; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways Bill [Lords]; Southport and Lytham Tramroad (Extension of Time) Bill (Lords]; Crellin's Patent Bill [Lords]; Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway (Purchase) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz. :—Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. : — Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time upon Monday next.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill (King's consent signified); Bill read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [Lords]. South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill. Watford and Edgware Railway Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Metropolitan District Railway Bill (by Order). Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

London and North Western Railway Bill [Lords] (by order). Read a second time, and committed.

Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Forfar Corporation Water," presented by Mr. Sinclair, and ordered (under Section 7 of the Act) to be considered upon Monday next.

PETITIONS

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; From Berry Pomeroy (two); Berwick; Boyton; Castle Combe; Ealing; High Roothing (two); Lambeth; London; Lound; Meole Brace; Maggerhanger; Sclattyn; Sible Hedingham; Stanley; Stepney (two); Streatham (two); Surbiton Hill (two); and Sutton (Notts); to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petition from Rugby, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Renfrew, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; From Cheltenham; Cleveland; Great Yarmouth; Hammersmith; Isle of Wight; Leicester; Morpeth (two); Newport (Mon.); North Carnarvonshire; Northumberland; Plymouth; Stowmarket; Tyneside; and, Wallsend-on-Tyne; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.

Petition from Fulham, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY TRADING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Renfrew, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Registration of Teachers and the Abolition of the Register [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered May 10th; *Mr. Claude Hay*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 191.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Rent of Battery Park, Stornoway.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state the approximate rent or the assessed value of the land known as Battery Park, Stornoway, prior to the Congested Districts Board taking it over; and the rent now charged for the same land on which twenty-nine fishermen's houses have been built by the Congested Districts Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The Secretary for Scotland is not aware of the approximate rent of Battery Park, Stornoway, before it was feued for fishermen's houses; the Congested Districts Board have not taken over this land, which was feued in parcels of about a quarter of an acre by the superior directly to the twenty-nine fishermen whose houses are built on it. The rent takes the form of feu duty paid by the fishermen, which is at the rate of £4 an acre, being the lowest sum which the Court of Session could allow. The transaction is fully explained at page xiii. of the Seventh Report of the Congested Districts Board.

Escape of Lunatic from Morningside Asylum, Edinburgh.

MR. STEWART (Greenock): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been called to the circumstances under which a lunatic, named Alexander Paton, escaped from Morningside Asylum, Edinburgh, and made a most serious assault on Mr. Thomas Mitchell, the chairman of the Greenock School Board, on Friday the 18th instant, who has suffered severely in consequence; that the lunatic, although in asylum uniform, was allowed to make his way through Edinburgh to the railway station, there and thence by train to Greenock without any apparent effort on the part of the asylum authorities to trace him with the view to his capture, and without any inquiry directing the police in Greenock relative to his escape, although it was known to those in charge of the lunatic that he was communicating with Captain Angus, the superintendent of the Greenock police; whether he will inquire if this is the first time the lunatic has escaped; and whether, in view of the neglect to take ordinary precautions to prevent the escape and effect the capture of the lunatic, he will cause the whole matter to be inquired into for the protection of the public from the recurrence of this peril.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I am aware of the circumstances referred to by the hon. Member and regret the injury sustained by Mr. Mitchell. The hon. Member's information that the lunatic was dressed in uniform when he escaped and that those in charge of him knew that he was communicating with Mr. Angus is erroneous. The inmate has not escaped before and steps were at once taken to secure his recapture. All possible measures will be taken to prevent the inmate from escaping again, and I do not consider that there are grounds for apprehension, as such escapes are very rare, and all such precautions are taken as are consistent with the policy of differentiating the discipline of lunatic asylums from that of prisons.

Importation of Tinned and Boneless Meat.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that a quantity of boneless and pork meat is imported into Great Britain; whether he can state of what material it is composed; whether he is aware that this meat is used in the manufacture of sausages sold as English produce; whether he will communicate with the American Government respecting the allegations made concerning lard and boneless, tinned and frozen meats; and whether he can state the methods employed in the inspection of this imported food.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am aware that a quantity of boneless beef and pork is imported into this country from the United States. I understand that it is composed of beef "chucks," "pork cuttings," "ham trimmings," and the like, and that it is used in the manufacture of sausages, which are presumably sold without any declaration as to the sources from which the ingredients of which they are composed are derived. I understand that the law in the United States requires all shipments of meat and meat products to Europe to be passed by inspectors of the Department of Agriculture before clearance is given to the vessel by the Customs authorities, and that the Department have laid down elaborate regulations relative to the inspection of meat intended for export. Having regard, however, to the recent allegations referred to in the Question, I have put myself into communication with my right hon. friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with a view to its being ascertained to what extent reliance can be placed on the system of meat inspection undertaken by the United States Bureau of Animal Industry. In this country imported lard and boneless and other meats are liable to the same inspection as other articles of food. There are circumstances affecting some of these imported foods which present serious difficulties in the way of efficient inspection; but I am fully aware of the need for securing that the powers of inspection possessed by local authorities should be exercised as far as possible in these cases, and I have recently caused inquiries to be made and action to be taken for this purpose.

Scottish Constabulary Recruits—Statement by Major Furguson.

MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been called to the remarks made by Major A. J. Furguson, His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, at Patrick, on May 16th in which he reflected on the character of recruits to the police force from the western islands; and what steps he proposes to take to have such a statement either justified or withdrawn.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) Upon inquiry I am assured that no such statement was made by the inspector, who does not hold the opinion erroneously ascribed to him.

Employment of Foreign Servants by War Office Officials.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether there is any regulation prohibiting officers, serving at the War Office in a confidential capacity, from employing foreign servants or using them to carry dispatch boxes to or from their private residences.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) There is no regulation concerning the matters alluded to in the Question.

Army Pension for Joseph Hook, late 59th Regiment.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Joseph Hook, late of the 59th Regiment, who was discharged after twelve years' service, suffering from ill-health, and who, through ill-health and consequent inability to work, has become chargeable upon the poor rates; and whether he can see his way to grant him a special pension, either from the funds of Chelsea Hospital or from some other source.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This case has already been fully considered. He is not eligible for the award of any pension.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) said that the first vote that day in Committee of Supply was for the salary of the Colonial Secretary. Might he ask the hon. Gentleman the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, whether he proposed to close that Vote that day or to leave it open to a later stage of the Session. He was sure that the hon. Gentleman must realise that questions of great importance in regard to South Africa might emerge within the next few months, and it would be far more convenient that these should be dealt with on the Estimates than by Motion for Adjournment.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.) said he quite recognised the force of what the right hon. Gentleman had said, and he thought it was for the general convenience of the House, and particularly in the case of a Department like the Colonial Office, where so many subjects of more or less general interest might come up unexpectedly to be discussed, that the Vote for the salary of the Secretary of State for the Colonies should be kept open to a later period of the session, especially in a session like the present when Colonial questions were commanding a great deal of attention in the House and in the country. The Government were willing to meet the view of hon. Members opposite in that respect and to adopt a course which would render it most convenient for the House to raise various questions of policy that they might from time to time desire to discuss. But they had already had one whole day's discussion on the salary of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and if his right hon. friend would consult the precedents in the past he would find that one day sufficed for the discussion of that Vote, or rarely two. There was another Vote on the Order Paper—Class 5, Vote II.—which dealt with Sundry Colonial Services, such as the various Protectorates, which involved an expenditure of rather more than a million of money; and, if it was for the convenience of the House, there was no reason why the discussion on the salary of the Secretary of State for the Colonies should not proceed during the earlier portion of the sitting, and by general consent be terminated, leaving subsequent discussion to be taken on Class 5 Vote II. If that arrangement would meet the convenience of the House, he would be very glad to fall in with it. But he thought the Government ought to have one Vote that day.

SUPPLY [11TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £29,050, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant in Aid of certain Expenses connected with Emigration."

*SIR. J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham) said that he made no apology for again availing himself of the course of debate to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent need for proceeding with a vigorous policy of

British settlement in South Africa. He sincerely hoped that the result of this debate would be that they would get from the Under-Secretary for the Colonies some statement which would show that the Government were anxious to carry out such a policy. He was glad to note that there was a growing opinion in this country and in South Africa in favour of such a policy. In this House that opinion was not confined to the Ministerial Benches, but extended to all Parties. We had annexed these two States—the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal. It was not for him to discuss the wisdom of the annexation. But whether it was wise or not, we had to recognise that these States now formed an integral portion of the British Empire and that, therefore, it was our bounden duty—no matter what Government was in power—to do all in our power to make them a part of the Empire and to transform them into a condition of order and peace. There was no surer road of attaining that object than the establishment of large bodies of English people in the agricultural districts, working in close and intimate relationship with the Boers. He maintained that that would be the policy of genuine Imperialism. Imperialism of recent years had signified a policy of annexation and expansion; but with aggression there had come wars with all their disasters. This policy was not that of expansion, but of the consolidation and expansion of those territories whose destinies were now irrevocably bound up with our own. The problem with which we were confronted to-day in South Africa must excite the anxiety of all who were interested in that country, and he held that the policy which had been carried out with so much success in other parts of the Empire—viz., British land settlement—was the surest method of attaining the end everybody desired. The reason he had for bringing up this question again was the disappointment he had felt in the Answers given to the innumerable Questions which had been put to the Under-Secretary for the Colonies. True, the subject had been obscured. They had been obliged to have innumerable discussions on Chinese labour and the disturbed state of the native population in Natal. But as regarded both these questions there was no reason for putting aside or turning away their attention from the important subject of land settlement by a white population. He contended that that was all the more reason for the Government to take up an active, vigorous and constructive policy of land settlement. A great deal was heard in these days about the labour question. It was due to the labour difficulty that the late Government, unwisely and with very little foresight, introduced the unfortunate system of Chinese labour, and the labour problem in South Africa on its practical side had led, so they were told, to universal depression. Why was it impossible for the labouring classes in South Africa to find a livelihood? It was because under a protective system 70 per cent. of the necessary food supplies were imported. He ventured to say that a very large proportion of those food-stuffs could be produced in South Africa. A great portion of the waste lands in South Africa could be populated with a vigorous agricultural people who could bring these tracts of land under cultivation. If that were done there would soon be a lowering effect on the prices of the necessities of life. The racial question was, not an antagonism between the Boers and the Britons, for no hostility should exist in future between them, but, unfortunately, between the white man and the black. We had had experience of that in Natal; and therefore it was all the more incumbent on the Government to encourage a system of emigration by which the country would be filled up with a white population. As to the political side of the question, he was sure that there was no desire to introduce what was known as a British garrison in South Africa. There was no idea of the British overruling the Boer. What was wanted was proper proportion between the Briton and the Boer, and he believed that that would be of advantage to both. He was bound to confess that the Answers to Questions put to the Government had shown that no steps had been taken to carry out the objects he and his friends had at heart. He thought he might say that the Colonial Office had appeared, of set purpose, to avoid the responsibility of adopting adequate measures for carrying out a scheme of land settlement in South Africa. The report of the Commissioner of Lands, which was extremely interesting, showed that the work of land settlement was at a stand-still. It stated that the causes thereof were certain technical obstructions to land transfer; and that land was withheld from the market for agricultural purposes which was proclaimed for mineralising purposes. The Report went on to say that the Lieutenant-Governor of the Transvaal had the power to deproclaim that land and open it for agricultural purposes; but that power had not been exercised. There were large tracts of land in the Transvaal available for agricultural settlement, and it appeared to him that the Government should give a stimulus to the Transvaal Government to open these tracts of land for agricultural settlement. Many people argued that that land was not suitable for agricultural settlement; but he preferred to take the opinion of men on the spot and that of the Commissioner for Lands who said that—

> "There was no reason why the two industries —the agricultural and the mining industries— should not be developed side by side without clashing with the respective interests involved."

That, to his mind, was a conclusive answer to those who said that the land now devoted to mineral purposes was not suitable for agricultural purposes. There were two directions in which the Government might use its influence, but, of course, financial difficulties were involved in regard to land settlement. Those two points he had urged upon his hon. friend in the past, though he admitted that he had not been very successful in his endeavours. His hon. friends who agreed with him had been equally unsuccessful. The land settlement funds were exhausted, and in reply to a number of questions, the Under-Secretary said a short while ago—

> "Any alteration in the Transvaal law affecting the tenure of these lands will be a matter for the consideration of the responsible government about to be conferred upon the colony."

If this was the policy of His Majesty's Government, they were evading their primary Imperial duty as the Government responsible. He believed that this question was so urgent that it could not wait; it should be dealt with at once. Every day that was missed was making the task more difficult of fulfilment in the future, and was a loss of valuable time which could not be recovered. We in this country prided ourselves as a nation upon our colonising faculty and our aptitude for that work, and boasted that no obstacle had ever prevented us from succeeding in any part of the world. Let it not be said that this faculty was dying out and that we were incapable of colonising the Transvaal where compared with other territories the obstacles were trifling and the advantages to be reaped overwhelming. In days gone by we had overcome greater obstacles than would be found in South Africa. No doubt there were many hon. Members who would say that the obstacles in South Africa were insuperable. A great deal was said about the unsuitability of the land and of the climate, the diseases to which cattle were subject and other respects in which it was said the country was unsuitable for agricultural purposes. A complete answer to that kind of contention was to be found in the last report of the Agricultural Department of the Transvaal. That was a very remarkable and valuable document, and he wished to refer hon. Members to it. It was indeed an encouraging report to those who believed that the way to bring peace and prosperity into South Africa was by the initiation of a generous land system which would tend to increase the agricultural population. It demonstrated beyond all doubt the justification for all the work that had been done in the past, and he should like specially to allude to the admirable and persevering work done by the South African Association in this connection. That association in conjunction with the Government had done work in the Orange River Colony and in the Transvaal upon thoroughly practical lines. They were not "dumping" down irresponsible Englishmen upon land of which they knew nothing. They sent out carefully selected men and placed them upon land which also was carefully selected. By means of this association men were being placed upon the land under the most favourable circumstances, and the result of the experiment had shown that the climatic conditions and the diseases to which cattle were subject could be overcome. All this showed that there was large room for future development. What, however, was the use of a report of this kind furnished by expert gentlemen if the Government stood idle, and if the whole process of immigration and resettlement was to be checked by mere official lethargy or obstruction at home? There was the land,

and it was suitable land. There were the men and they were suitable men, and they were ready, able, and qualified for the purpose. There also was the machinery in their hands, and yet to-day the work stood idle and no scheme of immigration was going on. But there was another serious aspect of the question. If the reports were to be relied upon there was a steady and growing stream of emigration of Boers from South Africa. One could understand that at the end of the Boer war, the Boers, smarting under the wounded feelings induced by defeat and a sense of patriotism, emigrated to Argentina, but they had had four years of beneficent British Government, and one did not expect those feelings to prevail now. He hoped the figures were exaggerated, but if they were to be relied upon, an official paper in Germany stated that no less than 700 Boers had moved into German East Africa, and that 300 a month were going into that Colony. He had no doubt these figures were exaggerated, but he should like to know to what extent this emigration was going on. It was known, however, that the German Government were offering these men every facility and inducement to go to their Colony, the only condition they made being that they should have £450, and probably that £450 was repatriation money obtained from the British Government out of the £35,000,000 granted. This point seemed to him, however, to afford an additional reason why the Government should take up the question. If it was the fact that the Boers were leaving the Transvaal and the Orange River Colonies, it made the problem of filling up more urgent, and the British Government could no longer afford to disregard it and leave the residents of the country to seek their fortunes in another place. In view of all these facts he asked why should they wait for a responsible Government before this question was dealt with? With the best intentions in the world it would take much longer than hon. Members realised to establish a responsible Government. There must be many delays before the local Governments became active administrative machines. Nothing which the Government did was likely to conflict in any way with the opinions of those who would form the responsible Governments to be established in South Africa. On the other hand, such action would redound wholly to the benefit and well-being of the country, and to the responsible Governments who were to rule it. Full machinery was in existence, and it only required impetus from the Government to work it. A Land Settlement Board had been well established, and there was the South African Association, which here at home was doing most excellent work and was ready work with the Board and the Government. Moreover, from conversations he had had, he knew that that great and beneficial organisation, the Salvation Army, were quite prepared to administer emigration schemes on the same lines in South Africa as they were carrying out now with such marked success in Western Canada. In face of all these facts, therefore, the Government had not to work single handed, and it was absurd to delay the carrying out of operations upon which depended the future of the two States. He had reserved to the last the most important factor, that of finance, which was at the root of the matter. He would not venture to come down to this House and suggest that the British Exchequer should defray the cost of any scheme of land settlement in South Africa, but there were funds in existence which were available for this purpose and which could be allocated to it. Out of the £35,000,000 he had previously mentioned £3,000,000 was allocated for land settlement in South Africa He gathered that the larger portion of that £3,000,000 had already been spent, but by a Question the other day he elicited the fact that £500,000 of that sum had been diverted to other purposes. That £500,000 might still be taken from the balance of what remained of the £35,000,000 and replaced as a portion of the £3,000,000 for puposes of land settlement. That would be one source of income for the purposes of this operation. Then there were the £30,000,000 ot which he had before alluded in this House. He understood that it was now rather a vague quantity, but there was no reason why an instalment of that £30,000,000 should not at some early period be asked for, for although the shares might be low upon the Stock Exchange the mine owners must be making a good profit upon the mines. It was true that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might suggest that the £30,000,000 was due to the British Treasury, but he thought that in the end if the instalment were applied to land settlement it would benefit not only South Africa but this country. The money would be at compound interest and would be repaid by payments in regard to the price of the land which would increase every year. These amounts instead of going to the Transvaal Treasury could be placed in the Land Settlement Fund, and there again would be an automatic replacement of the money. He asked his hon. friend to give his earnest attention to the points he had raised, and he hoped he would not reply in the official manner. He was a man, he would not say of dialetics, but he was a man of words, and it was quite easy for him to get up and make a speech which everybody would enjoy and admire, but which would be as useless as the last eloquent speech he made three weeks ago. It was said by some that under the new constitution to be formed those who administered the government would mete out unsympathetic treatment to those Englishmen who were settled on the land. He hoped that idea would be at once discredited. Our future responsibilities in South Africa must be undertaken without any mistrust of our Dutch fellow subjects. With a properly constituted Government of two Houses those settled on the land should be just as safe as they were at present, and he hoped the answer given by some that this was a matter which should be left until the new constitution was granted would not prevent the Government pursuing a vigorous policy of land settlement. The development of South Africa was of urgent and immediate importance not only to South Africa itself but to the British Empire. He earnestly asked his hon. friend to say on behalf of the Government that it should be taken in hand without delay, and that he would allow no official obstacle or temerity of purpose to deter him in this responsible task which rested solely on the shoulders of the Government. There was a greatly increased public opinion in favour of this view and while he did not wish to embarrass the Government he believed it was in the best interests of South Africa and of the Government itself that this policy of land settlement should be carried out as soon as possible.

*Mr. RUFUS ISAACS (Reading) said that in dealing with South Africa we were dealing with a Colony which so far had not derived any accession of prosperity from being governed by the Imperial Government. It was because he realised and wished the Committee to realise the vast importance of creating in South Africa a large white agricultural population that he now intervened. Notwithstanding the fact that we were about to grant self-government to these colonies there was a very definite feeling in this country that there should be a constructive line of policy pursued by the British Government to ensure the future of South Africa as a colony with a large white agricultural community when the mines would no longer be producing gold, and when in all probability a great many of the British in South Africa interested in the mining industry would have left that country. The problem which had to be faced was one which the Government might say they could not deal with at present because they were about to grant a constitution to those colonies, and that the Government created under the constitution must be left to deal with these matters. He agreed entirely with the hon. Baronet that that was no reason why this Government should not busy itself and continue to busy itself in carrying out the policy started by Lord Milner. Although the Government's supporters did not agree with most of the policies initiated by Lord Milner, they cordially endorsed the view he put forward with regard to land settlement. While they agreed that that policy was costly, as it had hitherto been carried out, so far as the policy itself was concerned, it was one which they would like this Government to pursue. He wished the Government, when they proposed to answer that they must leave this matter to the new colonies, to realise that the policy was one which did not admit of delay. It was perfectly true that it would take time, but the longer it took to come to fruition the more reason there was that the Government should lose no time in carrying it out so far as they were able. What impressed him particularly as an erroneous view was that it had been said that in dealing with this question they were seeking to induce settlers to go to South Africa and to engage in agriculture upon land which was not fitted for it. That was a question of fact which the experts could best answer. We in this country could only deal with that question on the reports which came from South Africa, and he did not see how any opinion pronounced by those who had not visited that country and had no personal knowledge of the conditions of the land could be of any value if antagonistic to that of those who were or had been on the spot. So far as he was able to judge from the reports already presented, this question had been the subject of serious consideration. It was fair to say with regard to the Crown lands of the Transvaal that all the lands in the hands of the Crown on the high veldt had already been alienated and no longer were available for this purpose, but that the middle veldt, of which one-half were Crown lands representing an area equal to one-fifth of the Colony was said by experts to be fitted for agricultural settlement. We had therefore large tracts of land belonging to the Crown on which, by the assistance of a State-aided scheme of purchase, we should be enabled to induce colonists from this country and elsewhere to settle and build up the country. The policy which he ventured to press on the Government was that they should take every means to induce white settlers to go to South Africa. When they looked at the present position in South Africa and they knew what they had to face in the shape of the difficulty with the natives and the serious difficulty of Chinese labour, they had all the more reason to believe that it was most desirable to make the Colony one in which there should be a white population able to meet the demand for labour and, what was of the greatest importance, to help to reduce the cost of living in the Transvaal. The great cost of living was really the most serious problem which had to be faced in the Transvaal. The country had been conquered and annexed by us, but our responsibilities did not cease with that annexation. Neither would they cease with our granting to the Colonies a new constitution. What we had to recognise was that our treasure had been spent and British lives had been lost in order to obtain Colonies which it was our policy, and should be our persistent aim, to people with our own people, so that we might build up a population which would cultivate the land of those colonies and enable the Transvaal and Orange River Colony to exist after the mines were worked out When new schemes were put forward to press the Government along a line of policy which necessitated the expenditure of money it was always suggested by every Government that the finding of the funds was the great difficulty in the way. But in this case there were at least two sources upon which we could rely. There was the sum of £500,000 which was still available, although it had been diverted from its original purpose. Then there was the money coming in from the instalments, which would continue to come in from State aided purchases which had been granted to the present settlers, and there was the £30,000,000 to which reference had been made. Here was an opportunity for the great mining magnates of South Africa to show their interest in the Colonies by subscribing very promptly the £10,000,000 promised. Even without the assistance from these capitalists, it could not be said that no funds could be found to carry out this policy of land settlement. Notwithstanding that we proposed in the near future to grant responsible self-government to these Colonies, he suggested a means by which the administration of the land settlements might be controlled by the new Governments in conjunction with the Imperial Governments. It was possible to continue the Land Board, which already existed under the Ordinance of 1902 or 1903, composed of its present members, with other members nominated by the new Government, so that for some time the Land Board, which was administering the land at the present moment, would continue to administer it with the assistance of those nominated by the direct representatives of the people. So that for a few years at all events we might have a continuation of the present system. That should be another inducement for the Government to act without delay without sheltering themselves behind the fact that the new constitution was shortly to be granted, and that the new Governments should be left to deal with this matter. This was a question which in his opinion could be fairly described as non-Party. It was the desire of all sections of the House to co-operate with the object of pressing upon those who were responsible for this particular department of the Government the wish of a large number of Members of both sides of the House that no time should be lost, and that the Government should devote all its energies and all its efforts as early as possible to pursuing the policy which had already been started and which should be prosecuted until the new constitution was granted. The answer that this should be left to the new Government only meant a waste of valuable time. If the policy were carried out those who held the reins of government in time to come in South Africa would thank this Government and those who advocated this policy and pressed it on the Government. If, on the other hand, the Government took no notice and land settlement was not pressed forward, it would mean that when the mining industry came to an end, South Africa would have lost its great opportunity of attracting a large increase in the number of British inhabitants. Agriculture might be developed simultaneously with the mining industry, and it would make for the good of South Africa, for its future prosperity, and for its future contentment as a British colony.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said he was extremely gratified at the informative nature of this debate. Never had he heard a subject discussed with so much consideration in the presentation of the facts, or with so much moderation. The hon. baronet who opened the debate had complained that the Government had not proceeded with as much activity as he desired. But he could quite understand the difficulties in the way of the Government. They could not have great activity on the part of a Government at a time when Party feeling ran high and all sides met in a controversial spirit, unless a very wide public opinion was formed upon the subject under discussion. This debate showed there was being formed a wide public opinion upon this matter of land settlement. The public of this country were not ignorant of the facts, and therefore the Government could move. In the first place, the public opinion of this country expressed the view that the time had come for the Government to act; secondly, that it had the power to act; and, thirdly, that the Government should not hold its hand on the plea that this was a question which should be left to the responsible Government to be formed in the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal. The Government had an absolute right before it granted responsible Government to these Colonies to say what the conditions were upon which it suggested the responsible Government should be accepted. The time of danger came when interference took place after responsible Government had been granted. There were four long years of discussion before Natal accepted certain conditions laid down with regard to the treatment of natives, and in this case the Government could lay down conditions with regard to the land settlement in South Africa. Now was the time to thrash the question out. With regard to the question of land settlement, the hon. Baronet who opened the debate had suggested that a certain association with which he (Sir Gilbert Parker) had been connected, had done some very effective work in this regard. It was true they had not sent out many settlers to South Africa, but those whom they had sent out had succeeded, and that was the important point. The hon. Baronet asked why South Africa was not able to keep her settlers. He knew it was not due to the mines entirely. The fact was they could not feed themselves. There had always been a lack of food. The whole land teemed with tinned food from America and elsewhere, and the possibility of the supplies being cut off had deterred people from settling there. South Africa had not food enough to feed herself, and, as the hon. Baronet and the hon. Member who had just sat down had said, it was only by the cheapening of food that they could possibly get a white-labouring class in South Africa. There was at present no such thing as a white labouring class in South Africa as it was understood here or in any other colony, with the exception, perhaps, of British Columbia in its earlier days, and in Queensland, where difficulties had made it necessary to employ other labour. But in South Africa the white labouring class, as we understood it, was non-existent, and there would never be such a labouring class until by the development of agriculture they were able to obtain cheaper food. If that were not done, the anxieties regarding the labour question would be as strong ten years from now as they were to day. His Majesty's Government had a great majority, a free hand, and a strong arm, and, he would say sincerely, with moderation in their mind, as shown by the speeches of the Secretary and the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, they had the opportunity of establishing now a condition of things which a future Government would not be able to alter. He did not suggest that a future Government would alter it, but he did say that security was better than promise, and safety was better than prophecy. This Government, as the hon. Gentleman who spoke last had said, could get certain things by pressure in one quarter and by fair dealing in another. He agreed that the £10,000,000 which was to have been underwritten should have been underwritten. He believed we should press for it. He had never had any other idea. A promise was given and it should be fulfilled. Public opinion in this country was much stronger than the Government—even than this Government. [AN HON. MEMBER: This Government is public opinion.] For the purposes of his argument he would accept that statement for the moment. As it was public opinion, the Government had the force of right on their side, and let them then ask for this £10,000,000. If they could not get the whole of it, let them make a bargain and take £5,000,000 if need be, and apply it to the purposes of land settlement, stipulating that of the 30,000 square miles of Crown lands in the Transvaal a portion should be reserved for the Land Commission. There were plenty of precedents for that. He did not call for a land board, but an independent commission like the Charity Commission or the Public Works Loans Commission—in fact, anything so long as it was absolutely independent of the struggle and strife of the local Parliament. Out of the 30,000 square miles, why not ask for 10,000 square miles to be reserved, and then put the £10,000,000 or the £5,000,000 under the control of the Land Commission? He would trust the Government to select independent and impartial men to serve on the Commission to administer the land and funds in the interests of white British settlers. He did not think that the time had come yet to attempt to encourage what might be called foreign immigration. Everything should be done to bring people to South Africa from our own Colonies if they wished to go. If they did not we should bend every effort to get people from this country to settle in South Africa. Practical experience, however, showed that men would not be successful in South Africa who had only £150 or £200 capital. Successful farming there could not be carried out unless a person had at least £400 or £500. That would not give the labouring class in South Africa. It would only give the small farming class, the value of which, however, was inestimable. The hon. baronet had spoken of the agricultural report presented by the Transvaal Government. The Departments of Agriculture in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony were the best Departments of Agriculture in the British Empire, not excepting even the august Agricultural Department in this country. And why? They had been wise enough to employ not men from England alone, but also men who had had experience in other Colonies. At the head of the Land Department of the Orange River Colony there was a Canadian, a guarantee at once of common sense, ability, and integrity. At the head of the Land Department of the Transvaal was one of the most able and distinguished officials of Western Australia, Dr. Jameson—he did not mean the Dr. Jameson of more notorious history. He knew this gentleman some eighteen years ago in Western Australia, and he should like to pay a deserved compliment to the work he had done at the head of the Land Department of the Transvaal. He had done great service not only for the Colony but for His Majesty's Government and the Empire as a whole. Although land settlement had not so far been the success it should have been, and there had been a great deal of unwise expenditure, he ventured to say that there never was an experiment made under such difficult conditions so successfully. What had been the loss? About 1,200 settlers, with their families and white helpers, representing a population of 5,000, had been dealt with under the experiment, and £200,000 had been lost. That was after a great war which wasted the whole of the country. A large portion of that sum went to soldiers and to a floating population for whom the Press of this country and of South Africa insisted something should be done after the war. The greater part of that £200,000 went through the benevolence of His Majesty's Government. He did not say mistakes were not made. He thought something could be said against the tax on cattle. A great deal might be levelled against the Department of Land Settlement in the Transvaal, but if this or any Government came out of its general expenditure with as clean a record it would have done extremely well. Lord Milner's prophecies regarding land settlement had been justified by results. He had certainly only put down 600 settlers in the Transvaal, and for the reason that the red-water fever swept the Transvaal, and it was only within the last few months that they had had real control of it. The Orange River Colony did not have the red-water fever, or scarcely at all, and therefore they were able to proceed with their work more successfully, and practically without loss. In the Transvaal the same results were not produced owing to the hand of Providence, and not to any inefficiency on the part of the Land Settlement Department. They could not put a large population down upon the land in the Transvaal or the Orange River Colony, and as the process of settlement would be slow there would not be a danger of maladministration. As the development of land in South Africa would be very expensive, it was all the more reason why they should have a portion of the £10,000,000 in order to develop it, as was being done in Cape Colony, where, very wisely, the Government was lending money to small settlers, Dutch and British, in order to develop their farms. It was impossible for the kind of settler sent out by the Salvation Army to be successful in South Africa, unless the Government secured enough land to provide a small settlement for them. The South African Association had sent out over seventy settlers and not one of them had proved a failure. As for the miners, the whole history of the mining occupation throughout the Empire was that when mining disappeared it left behind those who went out as speculators to make money quickly, and when the mines were exhausted the miners usually settled down to their original occupations. Many miners were men who had abandoned trades for the time being, and the history of Australia, the Western part of Canada and California had been that the large population attracted to mines remained to work at other occupations when mining ceased. If we left agriculture to the day when the mines were worked out, the country would be abandoned by the British population and by those whom they most wished to keep there. We must prepare for the establishment of a generous system of land settlement in South Africa. He urged upon the Government the necessity for removing all restrictions upon the ease with which land might be taken up. He trusted also that the lands which were unimproved in the hands of the great companies would be dealt with adequately by the Government. Some of the mining companies owned vast quantities of land, and they did not use it all for mining purposes. No such land ought to be retained on the chance of an unearned increment; it should be thrown open to agricultural settlers unless improvements were made upon it. Since the war they had been pretty busy in the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal reconstructing matters after that great disaster. The people had been engaged endeavouring to make both ends meet in every occupation of life in order to re-establish themselves. As there was a strong feeling on both sides of the House in regard to this matter, and as public opinion was being formed upon it, he urged the hon. Member who represented the Colonial Office and the Government on this occasion, to reserve a large sum in perpetuity for land settlement. This could be done without exciting any animosity, and in this way a certain amount of the 30,000 square miles of the Transvaal could be reserved for British settlers. If that were done, in fifteen years time we should have a large British settlement in South Africa, the chief value of which would be to give to our fellow citizens a sense of the true spirit of British institutions representing the accumulated civilisation of the last thousand years.

*MR. CHURCHILL: This is not the first time this session that this question of land settlement has been raised in the House of Commons by my hon. friend the Member for Chippenham, but I think he will regard the debate to-day, so far as it has proceeded, as being more satisfactory from various points of view than any of the other debates that have arisen on the question. He has made a speech in the course of which he stated with great force and clearness the arguments in favour of an active and immediate policy of land settlement, and he has been supported by hon. Members on both sides of the House who show, not merely by their words but by their knowledge of the country, how very warm and real is the interest they take in the agricultural future of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. I am sorry that my hon. friend does not feel that the Government have on previous occasions responded with sufficient directness and explicitness to the appeals which he has addressed to them. On the general question I should think that everyone would agree. We should all like to see a large tenant-farmer proprietary in South Africa; we should all like to see a large population based on a more stable and more lasting foundation than that of gold mines and speculative finance. We recognise how many advantages would be likely to flow from the growth of such a population, how food would become cheaper in the towns, and how it would become more possible for white labour to live, and for the inhabitants of the towns to bring in their wives and children. The development of the country would be greatly increased by the growth of the agricultural population, whose business would be to supply the people in the towns, and agriculture would be stimulated by the fact of the increasing urban demand for its products. But there is another question which must not be overlooked. In every country there are varying conditions and divisions, but in no country in the world are there such bitter and marked divisions as in South Africa—division between town and country, division between Boer and Briton; and these two divisions have hitherto coincided one with the other. So that there has been division of race, interest, and occupation separating the people who have to dwell for all time together in that land. Lately there has come, and I think there must come still more in the course of time, an increase of railways, correspondence, communication, and the accessories of civilised life, which must tend to bring about a greater fusion of races. There are the cases of the sons of the more leading Boers—the Boers of position and wealth—who are being educated at the technical institutes as mining engineers and mining inspectors. In that way the Boer population is being drawn into the scientific industries of the country; and if by a transverse process we were able to mingle a steady stream of British farmers with the Boer farmers of the veldt and the countryside at large, I believe much would be done to rub away the sharp edges of the two populations who occupy that land. It has been found, as far as land settlement has proceeded, that the British farmer settler gets on extremely well with the Boers among whom he lives. They make friends, and they have a community of interests and ideas which has never before been apparent. The British farmer is usually a man more accustomed to take part in local politics and in local affairs, and at the farmers' meetings he is perhaps the best speaker, and he has more knowledge than anyone in the country as to the modes of conducting public business. In many cases the British farmer who comes in contact with the Boer farmer assumes a position of friendly ascendancy which is of the highest possible value in promoting good relations between the races. I need not say that in view of those considerations the cause of land settlement is one to which His Majesty's Government cannot be indifferent. But I should wrong my hon. friend and the Committee if I did not place before them some of the difficulties which seem to be attendant upon his request. State settlement of land is not an easy business for a country to conduct itself; it is still more difficult when it has to be conducted from one country in another country at a great distance. In the old days of colonisation things could be done which are not now possible. In the colonisation of 1828 to the east of Cape Colony 5,000 settlers from this country were placed on the soil. They fought the wilderness, they fought the wild beasts, they fought the natives, they lived like Robinson Crusoes for a generation; and now we find a loyal, healthy, contented population on the ground where one generation, at least, sacrificed its energy and its strength. I am not quite so sure whether this kind of experiment can be repeated now. In these days of railroads it is much easier for people, under tremendous local pressure, to recede from an experiment that has been commenced, and certainly, in my opinion, no sort of scheme of land settlement can ever be carried out with the cheapness with which the earlier settlements in South Africa and in Canada were conducted. Even apart from the land, the settlers will not now face the appalling hardships with which the earlier pioneers of a new country were confronted.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER: They had not the machinery.

*MR. CHURCHILL: We have now a most complicated and elaborate machinery, but, like all complicated and elaborate things, it is a most expensive machinery. We have succeeded in settling 1,300 settlers in the two colonies, and that has cost £2,400,000, or something like £1,800 per settler. Of course, it must be remembered that each settler is the head of a family, and possibly there are two or three other persons dependent on him who come in at the same time. That does not at all dispose of the arguments in favour of land settlement, but it shows that any policy of this kind requires to be very carefully considered; and I think that those who have to find the money would be very rightly bound to examine other alternatives for spending smaller sums of money before adopting the particular course which has been put forward.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER: A very large proportion of that amount is repaid by the settlers. About £2,200,000 out of the £3,000,000 will be repaid.

*MR. CHURCHILL: Of course I do not want to convey the idea that the money advanced is spent for ever. The credit of the State has, however, been pledged to the extent of £1,800 per settler under the scheme as hitherto conducted, and although I do not say for a moment that it has been ill-spent or thrown away, I do say that an advance of that character imposes very serious considerations upon the Government which has to find the money. We cannot overlook the fact that the £35,000,000 loan from which this £3,000,000 for land settlement was to be taken is a loan charged upon the Transvaal and to a less extent upon the Orange River Colony. These two Colonies will be compelled to provide the money from year to year for the service of their loan. It seems to me, therefore, altogether impossible to deny them the control of the details of the expenditure of the loan to the service of which they have to contribute from the general taxation of their respective Governments.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: At present the settlers pay the interest on that money, and the same obligation could be imposed upon all settlers taking up land in future, and the land boards would only have the disposal of £3,000,000, which is set apart for land purchase now.

*MR. CHURCHILL: The credit of the two Colonies is behind the £3,000,000, and it is impossible to say without most careful consideration that this whole matter should be removed altogether from their purview. I do not think it is easy to reconcile such a view with the admiration of the rights of self-government which we so often hear eloquently expressed by the hon. Gentleman, and I am bound to say that I think any arbitrary action in this respect might easily provoke an antagonism on the part of the local government concerned which might prove positively detrimental to the cause which my hon. friend has at heart. Let me ask the Committee to consider three practical suggestions which have been made. In one respect I am aware that to the existing settlers the Government has a great obligation. We must see that they have that considerate treatment which is an indispensable condition to their undertaking a great adventure in starting life in a new country. But when we are asked to alter the conditions of the tenure and transfer of land under the Gold Law, I am bound to say that I do not think we can with any advantage touch so complicated a question in a Colony which has an administration of its own and which is about to receive a responsible Government of its own. I do not see how we could possibly attempt with any advantage, now that it is only a matter of weeks before the new Constitution will be set up, to deal with a question affecting the tenure and transfer of land. The speech of my hon. friend would be a very proper speech to address to a Transvaal Parliament after the grant of responsible government is complete.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER: It is not asking a change of land tenure; it is asking the home Government to put into operation an existing power which the Lieutenant-Governor possesses to deproclaim land already proclaimed under the old Gold Law. There are large tracts of land under these conditions, and I ask my hon. friend to reply as representing the Government whether they will give instructions to the Lieutenant-Governor to exercise that power.

*MR. CHURCHILL: I think it is better that this matter should be left until the Transvaal is able to consider it for itself. Another suggestion made was that we should continue the automatic operation of the fund, that as the money was paid in so it should be loaned out to new settlers. Well, I believe that would be a very desirable thing. I should be glad to see it. But again I say that that is a matter which can only be settled subject to South African opinion. For instance, supposing there is a responsible Government in the Orange River Colony which has a Dutch majority. They might object to facilitating a scheme by which a steady influx of voters opposed to their own Government was to be maintained from year to year. That would be a very natural view on their part; and that we from this country should interfere to force them to continue to permit a system of land settlement of which they disapproved would, it appears to me, give rise to a great amount of racial friction and of friction between the two Governments which it is the earnest desire and fundamental principle of His Majesty's Government to endeavour to avert and allay. It is said—Why should we not endeavour to obtain an instalment of the £10,000,000 which was promised from the great mining magnates? I should be very glad to be informed on high authority that those gentlemen were anxious to come forward to sustain the promise they made. But my hon. friend is much better acquainted with them than I am and much more entitled to speak on their behalf. Indeed, I may say that I have been singularly unsuccessful in winning the confidence of these gentlemen, and no measure of their approval has ever greeted my exertions in their behalf. If it were true that the mineowners of South Africa would be willing to come forward to produce a considerable sum of money which might be made available for land settlement, I should be glad to have information of that character from some responsible quarter, and I trust that the information will only be the precursor of the money. But I do feel that that is not a matter on which we can pronounce unless we have more decisive information. I think I have shown the Committee some of the considerations which seem to me to place great difficulties in the way of any rash or decisive pronouncement at this stage. My hon. friend says, Why wait for responsible government? We have to wait until we have settled the form of Constitution, because the question of land settlement is one which must be considered as part of the general arrangement to be made; and I do not think that any advantage would be gained by my entering into pledges which we may not have the power to fulfil, or committing the House or the Government to a policy which may be reversed—as it can be reversed at any time—by the contumacious or heated action of the local authority. And, therefore, while I thoroughly recognise the importance of the policy which my hon. friend has outlined, and while I am prepared to exert myself, and am quite certain that Lord Elgin, who has taken a very keen interest in this question, will not neglect the considerations which my hon. friend has put forward, yet he must see for himself that it is impossible at this stage for any decisive pronouncement to be made. I can only say that, perhaps before the end of the session, when a general statement on the Constitution will, I hope, be laid before the House, we may have some news to give my hon. friend which will satisfy him a little more than that I have been able to give him to-day.

*MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury) said that the policy of the British Government since we obtained the possession of the two Boer Republics had been not to encourage white settlers, but to set up a huge yellow settlement which was bringing on the country increasing evils every week. That had been done, he admitted, by the late Government; and he did not think there was any question hardly at the last election in which greater feeling was shown than that the present Government should reverse the policy of its predecessor. He was sorry to say that although the present Government had been in power for six months the hopes of many that they would do so had not been fulfilled. He maintained that the position in the Transvaal at the present moment was not better than it was six months ago, when the late Government left office. The number of Chinese labourers, whom they were all anxious to restrict, was now greater than when the Tories were in office, and that number was increasing fortnight by fortnight. In the last fortnight 1,800 Chinese labourers were landed in the Transvaal; two days ago 2,000 more were imported; and to-day there were 8,000 more on the water on their way. At the same time, while that process was going on, the evils arising out of the Chinese already there were being accentuated. Desertions had largely increased, and crimes were growing in number and seriousness. The Government of the Transvaal itself admitted that it was unable to control or regulate the proceedings of the Chinese. In reply to the representations of an influential deputation of the Transvaal people which waited upon him in September last as to the enormous number of crimes which were committed on themselves, their wives, and children by the Chinese deserters, the Lieutenant-Governor said that he could not deny that such crimes had been committed, and that the white population was entitled to security. The Lieutenant-Governor said he proposed to take certain steps for the purpose of meeting the crisis, and that he had raised a large force of police—not at the expense of the mineowners who had brought in the Chinese to the Colony, but at the expense of the unfortunate people who were suffering from the depredations of the Chinese deserters. In addition to that, the Lieutenant-Governor proposed a new Ordinance which was more objectionable in its terms than any previous Ordinance, placing further restrictions on the movements of the Chinese labourers. The new Ordinance went so far actually as to deprive the unfortunate Chinaman, when charged with crime, of the right of going to the courts of the country to have that alleged crime investigated. It imposed on them trial by managers of the mines in the compounds—a thing which had never before been heard of in the British Empire. Moreover, it imposed on the whole body of Chinamen in the compound the duty of paying the money to meet the fine inflicted on one of their number. This Ordinance also gave white men the power to arrest a Chinaman without a warrant, and they were allowed to arm themselves with rifles to shoot down the Chinese. Since then the state of things had grown steadily worse. He would prove this by a few figures. Desertions, which in July last were only 245 per month, had increased in September to 434 per month; in December they amounted to 610, in January to 780, while in February the number was 1171. It was thus evident that there were let loose in the course of a year in the Transvaal between 9,000 and 10,000 of these wandering Chinamen. According to an official return, since July last year, 140 serious crimes had been committed by Chinese deserters on our colonists, but the monthly list given in the Blue-books showed that the number of convictions had been very much larger. He asked the Committee to consider what might be the effect on a peaceable community of having these men let loose upon them all this time. According to a recent dispatch of Lord Selborne, they consisted in part of—

> "Thorough scoundrels, ex-Boxers, and ruined gamblers,"

and, according to the mine manager of the Witwatersrand Mine, of—

> "dangerous assassins who boasted of the many murders they had committed."

It had been admitted by Lord Selborne that the present state of things was terrible. To a deputation of Transvaal people he had recently spoken of the recommendations of a Committee appointed by him, recommendations which urged the confinement of the Chinese within barbed wire fencing, and the raising of a mixed force of farmers and Zulus to help the police, and the serving out of rifles to all white men near the mines. It was an awful state of things, when, in a British colony, not a single man would be unarmed within ten miles of the Chinese compound on the Rand. Now, what did the Government propose to do to meet that state of things? They were promised at the beginning of the session by the Prime Minister, endorsed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, that certain important reforms should be undertaken. One was that the Ordinance of 1905 should be amended, in one particular; for the Prime Minister certainly said that the Chinese should have the important right of being tried in open Court by magistrates instead of in a hole and corner way by mining managers. In regard to the original Ordinance, which no doubt it would be difficult to deal with, there was also the promise given that no further cruel treatment should go on, and that every Chinaman who signified discontent with his condition and was unhappy therewith, should have the right of returning to his own country at the expense of the Imperial Exchequer. None of those promises had been carried out, he regretted to say. The Chinaman had not been tried before the magistrates, and, so far as he knew, not a single Chinaman had been repatriated. [AN HON. MEMBER: Twelve.] Well, twelve might have applied to be sent back home; but the fact was that the proclamation, instead of being simple and clear, was vague and obscure and even deterrent in its terms; and, indeed, it was hailed by the mine owners as one which was certainly not calculated to do them any harm, while there were placards all over London with the announcement "Chinese Labour Saved." The Chief Justice of the Transvaal said pretty plainly in his recent judgment on the legality of the Proclamation, that mine owners need not fear any application of it. And the result had proved that he and everybody else was right, and that as a result of the policy of the Government, for the present at any rate, not a single Chinaman would have to go. All this was extremely disappointing to those supporters of the Government who had listened to the speeches of the Prime Minister, and who remembered the attitude taken up by the leaders of the Liberal Party before the election. What was the reason why they had been landed in this unsatisfactory state of things? He could not help thinking that one reason was that Lord Elgin, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, lived in a serene and detached atmosphere. He was a nobleman who had never had to appeal to any constituency, and his position reminded him of a celebrated and powerful passage in Lucretius where he described the atmosphere in which the gods of Olympus dwelt. Lord Elgin was never seen in the gallery of this House listening to the debates, and he was unacquainted with the deep feeling which existed on the Ministerial side of the House in regard to the iniquity of the Ordinance. It was fair, however, to recognise that the noble Lord was confronted with the difficulty that all his agents in the Transvaal were appointed by the late Government and were committed to the policy of that Government. The hon. Gentleman the Under-Secretary had passed a high eulogy upon Lord Selborne. If that eulogy meant that Lord Selborne was a man of high honour and very amiable character, he had nothing to say against it; but if it meant that Lord Selborne was carrying out Liberal policy, then he entirely dissented from it. The very fact that Lord Selborne was an honest and honourable man rendered him incapable of carrying out Liberal policy, because he was not only opposed to that of the Government but was committed to the policy of the late Government. If the state of things was anything like what he had described, surely there were only two things to be done. One was, that the policy of repatriating these Chinese should be carried out as soon as possible, without absolutely dislocating the gold mining industry, and the other was that they should secure agents in South Africa who were in sympathy with this policy of repatriation, and who would see that it was carried out at the earliest possible moment. There was one other matter to which he should ask leave to call attention, and it was not the least serious part of the business. That was, that during the whole time that this experiment was going on, there was one feature of it, namely, the social and sexual feature, which got worse and worse. More and more of these yellow men without their womenkind were brought into the country, and more and more it was found necessary to restrict their liberty. They now had 50,000 of them herded together in compounds, shut out from every kind of healthy life which could raise them, and subjected to hardships of the most degrading kind. They had no women among them, and were strong physical animals, and that must lead to a condition of things which had better be imagined than described. A Liberal Government ought not to allow such a position of affairs to continue for a moment, and he appealed to both sides of the House, but mainly to Liberals, to say that it ought not to be tolerated. It had been suggested by those who were friendly to the Government that it was only necessary to wait for the evil to cure itself. It was suggested that if the outrages were allowed to go on the people in the Transvaal would become so sick of the experiment that they would put an end to it as soon as they got responsible government. That was not an honourable policy for the Imperial Government to adopt—to allow farmers and traders and their families to be outraged and robbed for months in order that a policy might be discredited. It was the duty of the Imperial Government to deal with this question before the Colonial legislature was set up. Let the Under-Secretary make it clear that the policy promised at the beginning of the session was not to be abandoned, and that by some means or another the repatriation of the Chinese would be effected. If that were not done, he must warn the Government that they ran grave danger of creating the suspicion in the country that the attitude they took up before the election was not sincere, but was taken up for party purposes, and that they were not maintaining what was the life-blood of Liberalism—freedom, justice, and morality.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) said that the speech of the Under-Secretary was singularly lacking in some of the qualities which it had been expected to reveal. It led the Committee no further at all. It gave no information and no confidence as to future administration. The hon. Gentleman rarely spoke without any previous knowledge of the matters entrusted to him, but it struck him and perhaps some others that on the present occasion he had not so fully acquainted himself with the details of the subject he was speaking about as he generally did. He himself had not some of the knowledge which apparently the hon. Gentleman possessed of recent events, but he had an intimate acquaintance with this question, because he was a member of the Commission which five years ago investigated this very problem of land settlement in South Africa, and the recommendations of that Commission, embodied in their report, had been the basis of everything that had been done in the nature of land settlement since that time. He thought, moreover, that what would be done in the future, would follow very closely upon the lines of that report. But the conclusions which that Commission arrived at were very different from those which the Under-Secretary had declared that afternoon. He thought they ought to take note of what the Under-Secretary had said and what he had not said. What he had said was that he admitted that there should be a larger settlement on the land in South Africa. What he had not said was that the Government were going to take any practical step whatever to effect that desirable object, nor had the hon. Gentleman stated how the Government were going to carry it out.

*Mr. CHURCHILL: I said that the Government would consider what practical steps they would take to safeguard the interests of land settlement when they were considering, as they must soon consider, the general question of the Constitution to be given to the new Colonies.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that in that case a great part of what the hon. Member for Gravesend had demanded was conceded. It was of the greatest importance to know that this question should be one of the conditions precedent to the grant of self-government. The Under-Secretary had repeated a statement he had once before made in debate, that the Orange River Colony might have a Dutch majority which would use its power to prevent the entry of British immigrants, on the avowed ground that they might eventually constitute a British majority in a British Colony. The Under-Secretary said that he did not think that would be unreasonable. He hoped attention would be called to that very dangerous statement. The danger of granting unconditional powers to the Orange River Colony was magnified tenfold if the Under-Secretary believed that what Mr. Steyn and Mr. Smuts had said was true, and that the first use which the Colony would make of its powers would be to exclude British settlers who might constitute a British loyal majority.

*MR. CHURCHILL: The right hon. Gentleman will see that there would be a great difference between a Colonial Government's excluding British subjects and that same Government's fostering the influx of settlers by advancing sums of money at the rate of £1,800 a man.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that there was a sum of money set apart for the purpose of completing the work sought to be accomplished by the war. There was also the prospect that that work would be deliberately interfered with by the Government about to be set up. It was part of the policy of the Empire that we should have a preponderant voice in South Africa. Mr. Steyn had written a letter, in which he said that as soon as the power was given he meant to resume the position in the Orange Colony which he held before the war. That meant the re-establishment of the Republic, unless reasonable precautions were taken that the work which this country had set its hand to should be carried out. The nominal re-establishment of Dutch power in South Africa would mean the introduction of another Power. [Cries of "What Power?"] If we were once more to withdraw from South Africa it would be impossible for the destinies of the country to be guided by what was left of the Dutch population. He did hope that people outside this House would understand that the motive which had been put forward for the abandonment of an active policy of land settlement would not bear examination by those who desired to see our position in South Africa retained. The Under-Secretary had spoken of the vast sum which had been expended as if it were a total loss.

*MR. CHURCHILL: I have never said that.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said at any rate that was the impression the Under-Secretary's words created when he spoke of two millions of money having been expended in establishing 1,200 settlers, at a cost to this country of about £1,800 for each settler. But the cost of this attempt at settlement was coming back, not only in the form of capital and interest, but, best of all, in the form of descendants of the men and women we were planting upon the land. The Commission to which he had already referred said it was not desirable to settle soldiers upon the land, and if that were done it could only be done as an act of policy and not as a step likely to produce an economic return. The Government had adopted the view that the political should override the economical consideration. The experiment had been made, and was responsible for the loss of £200,000 referred to by a previous speaker. But with regard to ordinary settlement the case was quite different. After this country had got back its principal sum and its interest they would have something far more valuable than mere money. He did hope that the Government would take more active steps in this matter than the Committee had been led to believe that they would do; for, unless South Africa became in spirit and in fact a British Colony, it could not remain part of the British Empire. The emigrants who went out from Liverpool in one week would be sufficient to turn the balance of the question in South Africa. What was turning these emigrants away and sending them to Australia, Canada, and other countries? [AN HON. MEMBER: The want of £20 to pay their passage.] They had no means of knowing whether that was so or not in some cases, but he would undertake to say that there were thousands of people who went to Canada who had not only £20 but far more than £20 in their pockets. The truth was that no man would go to a country where he was not on an equality with his fellow-citizens; no man would go to a country where his future was made uncertain by the act of his own Government; no man would go to the Orange River Colony where he was told that the Legislature would inflict disability upon him as Mr. Steyn had said he would inflict it upon Englishmen who settled there; no man would go to South Africa until he was assured that the system of government of that country was going to be a British system of government. One other matter he would like to refer to, these were the Colonial Estimates, and this was the great debate upon the Colonial policy of this country. He wished a large section of the public of this country could be admitted into this Committee upon the occasion of this great Colonial debate. Here they were discussing the whole policy of South Africa in a House of about forty Members.

AN HON. MEMBER: Only six on your side of the House.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that gave him the point which he desired to make. Why were those benches empty? [AN HON. MEMBER: Because they are away playing golf.] The fact that there were only six Members on his side of the House showed that the Opposition recognised the futility and the absurdity of the whole of the agitation with regard to Chinese labour. They had long considered that this matter was played out; that it was completely exposed and was a dead issue. They had heard that from the Secretary for the Colonies, and they had much better be playing golf than playing with a dead issue. Here they were with a House of about forty Members discussing the Colonial Estimates. What did the hon. Member for Newbury say in his gallant but despairing attempt to revive the subject? He said, "If you do not take care people outside will begin to think that the whole of this agitation was got up for political reasons and electioneering purposes and for nothing else." The hon. Member for Newbury was a long way behind the times. Everybody had found that out long ago. The division when it took place would prove nothing. What would prove something would be the facts. Where were those thousands of poor slaves who this country was told were pining to return to their homes? Neither side of the House could refrain from laughter when the Under-Secretary was recently asked the result of the ameliorating measures which were taken for the benefit of these poor slaves. It was idle for the hon. Member for Newbury to try and make fun of the Secretary for the Colonies. After all, the noble Lord was a man of great experience and had exercised the trust reposed in him to the best of his great ability. It was idle to put off the Committee with the tale that the Colonial Secretary was to be made the scapegoat. If he was to be blamed, how were the hon. Member for Newbury and the other supporters of the Government to keep their integrity unspotted? Did the Committee suppose for one moment that when the Colonel Secretary made a pronouncement on South African policy he did so without consulting his colleagues in the Government?

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER demurred to the suggestion that the hon. Member for Newbury had attempted to make fun of the Colonial Secretary.

*MR ARNOLD-FORSTER said they had heard the hon. Member speak of the Colonial Secretary as living in a serene and detached atmosphere like the gods of Olympus, and nobody who heard the hon. Member could doubt that his remark was intended to detach the Secretary of State for the Colonies from this House and the country and that he was acting apart from and without the consent of the Cabinet, without their knowledge and without knowing anything of what the Under-Secretary for the Colonies had told the Committee. They had had a very interesting debate upon this question of land settlement, but they would have had a far more interesting debate had they discussed the subject which he thought should have been discussed, namely, Chinese labour. The Chinese labour agitation had become the laughing stock of the people of this country, and it was high time that the whole fraud should be got rid of together with the pretence upon which it had been founded.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) said the question of land settlements in South Africa recalled problems in the government of India. One of the great difficulties which this country had had in the government of India was the fact that it was quite impossible for British people to settle and live for generations in the greater part of that country. All our chief difficulties, the financial difficulties and the racial difficulties there, arose from the fact that we were absolutely cut off from the inhabitants of the country. Civil servants, soldiers, and other people went there, stayed their brief day, and went away. Such reflection gave a peculiar interest to the subject which the hon. Member for Chippenham had brought before the House. He had hoped that the Under-Secretary for the Colonies would have given a little more encouragement to the suggestions which had been laid before him, and he did not find himself in sympathy with the attitude taken up with regard to speculative investments in that part of the world. It was impossible to separate the interests of the so-called magnates in that country from those of other investors in this country, who now owned the mines for the most part, and lost by their depreciation in value. Yet he noticed that in the course of the debate the hon. Member for Newbury had complained of the proclamation issued with regard to Chinese labour, because it had not done harm to the mining interest. Surely that was not what was wanted. He submitted that in all administrative matters it was of the greatest advantage that no harm should be done to any pecuniary interest concerned. For his own part he put the agricultural interest far and away above the mining interest. It was far more wholesome, far more permanent, and far more worthy of our support, and for that reason he expressed his concurrence in principle with those who had spoken upon that subject. There was another point to be considered in regard to this subject. Whether South Africa was a white man's country or not was a matter to be proved hereafter, though the action of Divine Providence seemed to point to the fact that it was a black man's country. He hoped to see growing up by the side of those dark-skinned men a race of yeoman farmers and thought the experiment well worth a further trial. He hoped one suggestion which had been made would not be received with favour by the Government. He hoped that no sort of pressure would be put upon the Transvaal—no sort of agreement made with them that they should take any particular steps after receiving self-government. He trusted that in no way would their own complete liberty of action be infringed. He could not see how any colony could prosper if it was to be subjected to criticism and interference in respect of details at the hands of the British Parliament. It seemed to him that the light-hearted questions and injurious epithets and aspersions, which possibly at home were not of such great consequence, when they travelled over the telegraph wires to the Colony attained great significance and created a great amount of mischief and ill-feeling. He regretted the way in which the hon. Member for Newbury had spoken of the Colonial Secretary, who he stated lived in some atmosphere of aloofness from everyday men, so that it was doubtful therefore whether he was up to date as to popular feeling. As a former colleague of the noble earl he had formed the opinion that no man could be found more moderate, more temperate, and better fitted to deal with questions such as those now before the Colonial Office. The hon. Member for Newbury had complained that the noble Earl was not in the gallery during the course of this and the like debates. But the noble Earl was not in the habit of frequenting the gallery or playing to it, and he would be found no doubt well engaged in the discharge of business. He was perfectly satisfied, and he believed, in spite of what had been said by one or two hon. Members, the great majority of the people of this country were satisfied with the action that had been taken and was being taken by the Government on the question of Chinese Labour, and he hoped the Government would not be persuaded hastily and without deliberation to alter its course. He contended that the Government could not reasonably be expected to terminate by a stroke of the pen legitimate interests which had grown up under a system which no doubt the Liberal Party unanimously disapproved, but for which they were not responsible. It was hardly possible to deal with the matter without having regard to any object but the satisfaction of sentimental feeling. He expected, at any rate, to see white and coloured races working side by side in Africa, and he ventured to say that wherever they found yellow labour and white labour, or black and white labour working together, they would find that the function of the white labourer would be the supervision of the yellow or the black, as the case might be. The sending out of half a dozen white men to work side by side with the Chinamen here and there was merely playing with the subject. No one who knew anything about the question could doubt that. Without going into the vexed and now settled question of the introduction of Chinese labour, he said the Chinese undoubtedly knew what they were about when they undertook to work in South Africa. It was not they who were complaining, nor was it the people of the Transvaal. They would have their opportunity directly of showing their attitude regarding what the hon.

Member for Newbury complained of. If every battle in the Colonies, from an action in the field to a police court case, were to be fought on the floor of this House, by persons other than those who were responsible for the decisions to be arrived at, no system could stand the strain. He hoped that what he might call the West Ham theory of Colonial government—the habit of setting down a country at a distance as of less importance than a village, town, or county, according to its relative population at home, and of assuming that Englishmen who left these shores lost their sense of justice and mercy, would not prevail. He believed the people on the spot knew what they were about, and were in the long-run likely to do right.

*MR. WALSH (Lancashire, Ince) said he rose with considerable pleasure to give the undivided support of the Labour Party to the Motion which had been made to reduce this Vote by £100.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member for Chippenham had not moved the reduction.

*MR. WALSH said that in that case he would himself move that the Vote be reduced by £100. He had listened, with considerable surprise to the statement of the right hon. Member for Croydon that the Chinese question was a dead issue. He (Mr. Walsh) would have thought that the state of the Tory Party, as shown by empty Opposition Benches, would have proved to the right hon. Gentleman that Chinese labour was not at all a dead issue. Indeed, the Government themselves had not fully realised the intense living gravity of the issue. The Whips of the Independent Labour Party, and indeed many of them apart altogether from the Whips, were in almost daily communication with the heads of the labour political organisations in the Transvaal and the Transvaal Miners' Association. If this question could have been determined by the opinion of the men of our own flesh and blood, it would not have burdened the councils of the House nor the country the length of time it had. Was the Government seriously in earnest in the matter? The hon. Member for Gravesend had said very truly that security was better than promise. Yes; and performance was also better than promise. They had been promised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the servility of the conditions of labour should be removed. Had one step been taken in that direction? They had been promised by the Leader of the House that every Chinese labourer who sincerely desired to return should have every facility afforded to him at the expense of the nation. What was the case? The proclamation issued by Lord Selborne was to the effect that a man, if dissatisfied, must have worked six months in a mine—presumably as a guarantee of good faith—and that when he desired to return it must not be at the cost of this nation, as they had been given by the Leader of the House to understand, but by working his passage home. That was the way in which this Government, in whom they once trusted, and in whom the greater number of them still trusted, intended to facilitate the return of the dissatisfied Chinese. That was not the manner in which they thought the Government would redeem their pledge. In February last he directed attention to the fact that, although in the Albert Hall speech in the previous December the Premier said the intention of the Government was to arrest the further importation of Chinese labourers, licences had been issued for over 16,000 Chinese labourers, and at the rate at which the other Chinese had been imported it would take eight months to import them. The Under-Secretary at the commencement of the session told the House that he thought the whole of the shipments would be completed by July. He (Mr. Walsh) even then ventured to say that that would not be borne out by the facts. We were now in the middle of June and there were still 8,000 of the16,000 to be shipped. At the rate of progress being made the last shipment would not be reached until the end of this year, and, if the terms of the Ordinance were observed, they would have still three years to serve. He sincerely believed and was firmly convinced that the overwhelming issue at elections as it affected the working men of this country was the great moral issue of Chinese labour, and that there was no issue that was more responsible for setting in power right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite. [An OPPOSITION Member: What about free trade?] Free trade was an economic, not a moral, issue. He was authorised by the Labour Party to speak on their behalf on this matter, and he said that the Government had not risen to the fulfilment of the promises which the nation expected them to carry out. They were speaking of their own flesh and blood. The Member for Montgomery Boroughs had pretty clearly shown that the Almighty himself had declared that the lands in South Africa at least should be peopled and worked by blacks. What did he find? He found that in January, 1905, there were over 87,000 black labourers in the mines. In March, two months later, the number had increased by 15,000. But at the end of the year the total number had fallen to 87,000. The meaning of those figures was that as the Chinese, who worked at a less rate than the black men, arrived, the black men were denied the right to labour in their own land. It was said by some people that the black men would not work. They ascribed to the black man's laziness what was due to the mineowners' greed. He (Mr. Walsh) was proud of the Empire; but it was not by making a fortune quickly out of degraded labour that the Empire was to be maintained. If politics meant anything they meant good government, not evading or trifling with great issues. He had been brought up in a belief in the *bona fides* of the Liberal Party, but, if the Liberal Government were not prepared to rise to the height of their possibilities and earnestly to recognise their deep obligations to the country in regard to Chinese labour, then the Liberal Government was simply an organised hypocrisy. The Government should see to it that the further immigration of Chinese labour was prevented. It had been said that this would be illegal. But if the Government could violate the Ordinance by setting aside the provisions as to reindenture, was it any more illegal to prevent further importation? Where the labour of the Chinese was not already possessed by the mineowner, he sustained no loss. He asked further that the Government should proceed boldly with the repatriation of the Chinese. He and his friends did not desire to attack industry; but they wanted to see built up in the mines and in the Transvaal generally a prosperous, intelligent, and contented white population. By them the Empire would be built up in the future, as it had been in the past. He should be sorry to conclude otherwise, for then the Empire would be doomed to destruction.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Walsh.*)

*MR. CHURCHILL: My hon. friend the Member for the Ince Division has spoken to the Committee very strongly because he feels very strongly; and I am certainly not at all inclined to deny the gravity or importance of the subject to which he refers. Certainly I am not likely to underrate the poignancy and vehemence, the unquestionable sincerity of the feeling which acclaims and supports such words and arguments as the hon. Gentleman has used. But my hon. friend and also the hon. Member for Newbury may differ from the policy which the Government are pursuing in regard to Chinese labour, and yet I do not think they have any justification for suggesting—I am not complaining that the suggestion was improperly, unkindly, or discourteously made—but they have no solid basis for suggesting or asserting that the Government have departed from the policy which was declared to Parliament and accepted by Parliament with an overwhelming majority at the beginning of this session. I am compelled to remind the Committee of what that policy was. The first point was that the question of Chinese labour was to be settled by a Transvaal Legislative Assembly subject to the reservation of this country's right to disallow any provisions which might be contrary to the traditional principles of British liberty. Secondly, it was admitted that 16,000 licences, which had been issued, as I think, most improperly, in the last few days of a dying Administration, could not be set aside, and that those who held them should be allowed to import under them as they had been authorised to do. We have looked at that question more than once during the session, and I recognise how reluctant the House was to consent to this. I know how reluctant His Majesty's Government were to consent to it. But that the House and the Government did consent to it there can be no possible doubt; and it is not possible at this stage to go back upon that policy and break promises which we have given and to commit ourselves to an act which we have more than once stated would be in fact, if not in name, an illegal and unjust act. The fact that 16,000 more Chinese licences were issued made it quite clear that during the period in which we are compelled to administer this Transvaal Labour Ordinance there would be an increase in the number of Chinese coolies employed on the mines. I am not trying to avoid the disagreeable and unsatisfactory conclusions and reflections which must naturally be drawn from that. I think it was the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down who said we must face facts and look at this question in its real character, and I say that that is one of the ugly facts we have had all along to face—that we should be responsible for carrying out the Chinese Labour Ordinance pending the grant of self-government, and during a time when the number would be increasing.

*MR. MACKARNESS: Was it contemplated that there would be a great increase in crime?

*MR. CHURCHILL: I will deal with the increase of crime in a few moments; but I do not think the hon. Member can prove that there has been a large increase in crime in proportion to the numbers of Chinese in the country now as compared with last year. What was the third point stated on behalf of the Government? It had reference to the removal of what my hon. friend described as the conditions of servility which characterized the amending Ordinance of 1905. In no single case, said my hon. friend, had we altered those conditions. I am sure he would not wish to make a statement which would give an incorrect idea of the actual facts, and I have no doubt it is because he has not access to the official papers on the subject, or has not followed all the Answers I have given to Questions, that he is under that impression. I stated at the beginning of the session that the following provisions were objected to in the 1905 Ordinance—holding of trials within the mine premises, deduction of fees from wages, fining the head boy for not reporting offences, and collective punishments. It is true that the Prime Minister said, in addition, that the regular magistrates in the Transvaal should deal with the Chinese. With that exception, all these provisions have ceased to be operative; and why has that exception been made? It has been made with the utmost sincerity, because we had reason to believe that it was in the interests of the Chinese labourers that they should be tried before people cognisant of their customs and of their language, and who were at the same time very carefully selected officers in Government employment. Only one motive, therefore, prevented that condition being carried out—a desire honestly, whether rightly or wrongly, conceived in the interests of the Chinese labourers themselves. The deduction of fines from wages, the fining of the head boys for not reporting offences—a system of monitorial discipline—and collective punishment—an odious and detestable principle, which I have always endeavoured to assail in this House—these provisions have been absolutely inoperative, and they are in the immediate future to be removed from the Ordinance. The reason they are not yet removed is that the Transvaal Legislative Council has only just been assembled, and until it assembled, the necessary amending order could not be introduced and carried through. But meanwhile, they have been, by administrative action, absolutely a dead letter. Had it not been possible to render them a dead letter by administrative action, the Government would have been prepared to intervene by an Order in Council to terminate them. There was one final feature in the policy of the Government declared at the beginning of the session about Chinese labour, and that was the policy of free repatriation for those who earnestly and sincerely desired to return to China. I am not prepared to admit that that policy is a failure because only twelve coolies have applied to be returned to China. I may add that of course those twelve coolies have been sent back without any of the precautionary conditions which were instituted and laid down in the proclamation. I say that that policy has not failed because only a few persons have availed themselves of it. Still less can it be said that that policy was a hoax, or, as the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon said, with his usual tact and urbanity, that it was a fraud towards Parliament and this country.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I did not say so.

*MR. CHURCHILL: "The sooner these frauds on which the agitation was based are ended the better."

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: That is quite another story.

*MR. CHURCHILL: Was not this one of the "frauds" to which the right hon. Gentleman referred?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No; I was referring to the representations made to the country with regard to the treatment of these men.

*MR. CHURCHILL: I understand the right hon. Gentleman is of opinion that the proclamation was not a fraud, but was perfectly *bonâ fide*.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I made no suggestion that anything done by the Colonial Office was a fraud. I never made such a suggestion.

*MR. CHURCHILL: I am glad to have that assurance from the right hon. Gentleman, because he differs from the principal organs of his Party, if I may judge from the current issues of the newspapers. It is a very extraordinary thing that Conservative papers like the *Daily Mail* should describe this repatriation proclamation, which was drawn up in South Africa under Lord Selborne's authority, as a hoax. I have always been very careful indeed never to try to claim for the policy of His Majesty's Government any particular advantage in that it was endorsed or supported by Lord Selborne. Not at all. I think it would be a very unfair use for us to make of a public servant who is serving us if we were to endeavour to shelter ourselves behind the use of his name. But I do say here, and I have said in the country, that of Lord Selborne's personal integrity and of his high character and perfect candour in official relations there can be no possible doubt. Now, we have in respect of this repatriation policy not merely the official announcement that the policy of the Government has been carried out, but we have Lord Selborne's personal assurance that the coolies thoroughly understood the proclamation, and that the intentions of the Government in regard to repatriation have been and will be carried out in future in an effective manner. When I read out the terms of that proclamation in this House an hon. Member on this side asked whether it would not be possible to issue a proclamation over some other signature than that of the Superintendent of the Transvaal Mines. I think he suggested that Lord Selborne himself should issue the proclamation in his own name. I do not know whether it was in consequence of that question being reported, but at any rate Lord Selborne himself visited a mine employing 8,000 coolies just before we separated for the Easter holidays. He went in full uniform, with his staff and an escort of cavalry. The object was to show that behind the proclamation there was the authority of the Imperial Government and that there was a higher authority behind it than that of the ordinary administration of the mines. Lord Selborne questioned the coolies, and he assured us they fully understood the terms of the proclamation.

*MR. MACKARNESS: Were not the coolies asked to state their grievances in the presence of the managers of the mines?

*MR. CHURCHILL: I do not think so. My recollection is that Lord Selborne collected upwards of 100 "boss" boys in a separate room, and there put the questions that he had to ask them. I have never been one of those who attach too much importance to those stories we are told from South Africa about Chinese coolies petitioning for the continuance of flogging and struggling to get back to South Africa after being repatriated. They seem to me to be statements which are only credible on the assumption that the Chinese are an even more peculiar people than we believe them to be. But I do say, and it is my duty to state to the House what I believe, that after what has occurred in connection with this repatriation proclamation it is impossible to resist the conclusion that there is no general desire on the part of the coolies employed on the Witwatersrand to leave their work and to return to China. That, of course, may be perfectly true without in any way removing the objections which we entertain to the system of Chinese labour. If all the Chinese on the Rand regard their period in South Africa as the happiest period of their lives, that would not be, in my opinion, an argument for perpetuating that system. It is still less an argument for departing from the policy declared by the Government at the beginning of the session, which was the policy, admittedly a *modus vivendi*, of allowing the system under the Transvaal Ordinance to be continued until there might be a free expression of the opinion of the Colony upon it. There may be another explanation why there were so few coolies repatriated under the provisions of the proclamation. Coolies have been repatriated under other clauses of the Ordinance during the present year at a very much greater rate than was the case up till four or five months ago. I have collected some figures which I should like to read to the House. Up to July 31, 1905, in fifteen months, 46,898 coolies had been introduced, and 1,676 were repatriated. Between July 31, 1905, and February 28, 1906, in a period of seven months, 1,000 coolies were repatriated; and since March 1 to the present time, a period of three months, 1,100 more coolies have been repatriated. In all, the total number of coolies who have purchased their discharge is over 500, and the number of those who have been sent back as medically unfit is about 3,000. In fact, you may say that in seven months, to the end of February, the average number of coolies repatriated per month was about 140 from all causes, and in the last three months the number has averaged upwards of 360 per month. It is quite clear that, if that proportion is maintained, the diminution of the coolie population of the Rand in the course of the present year will amount to something like 4,000 or 5,000, and that number, of course, has to be deducted from the numbers who are sent in in pursuance of the licences already issued. I believe that the proportion of repatriation for bad conduct or for inability to discharge work will not merely be maintained, but will be increased, because Lord Selborne told the Boer deputation who visited him that he intended to use the power of repatriation much more drastically than he had hitherto done in order to rid the mines of bad and discontented characters, so as to diminish the crime to which my hon. friend has very properly alluded. I will say one word about the outrages which are committed. The hon. Gentleman is right in saying that that is a most grave and serious matter. I agree that it is not possible to read without a flush of anger of the conditions of uncertainty which prevail along the line of the Rand and of the issue of shot guns and rifles to peaceful citizens in order that they may defend themselves. One of the causes of these outrages is undoubtedly the fact that the Chinese have a very peculiar code of ethics, which makes them regard it as a more dishonourable thing not to pay a gambling debt than to commit a murder. It is seriously asserted that when a Chinaman has ruined himself and lost his money through gambling, such a terrible pressure is put upon him by the public opinion of his fellows to pay his debt that he has only three courses open to him—to rob to obtain the money, to be repatriated in China, or to commit suicide. That has been one of the causes of the serious crime which has attended this most ill-omened experiment. The Report of the Commission to which the hon. Gentleman referred has already reached us in summarised form, but the Secretary of State has not finally decided upon it, so I am not able to make any very precise pronouncement. But the recommendations of that Commission may be divided into three parts. First, as to those physical restrictions to which the hon. Gentleman referred, wire entanglements and fencing to keep these Chinamen in, which seem to all those who advocate them to be an entirely proper and satisfactory arrangement, I have already used in this House a phrase which I venture to repeat now. His Majesty's Government will not lend themselves to unusual devices in restraint of liberty; and we have already intimated that the fencing which it was proposed to erect will fall within that category. Secondly, it is suggested that there should be much more careful police regulation—no one can object to that—and that there should be a larger proportion of white superintendents over the Chinese population to prevent irregularities of all kinds from being committed. Assuming that the policy of the Government announced at the beginning of the session is to rule our counsels, no one can object to that. On the contrary, it will be a matter of satisfaction that a greater degree of supervision will be provided. And if that greater degree of supervision also implies a greater degree of expense, and that expense is borne, as it should be borne and will be borne, by the importers of the Chinese coolies, it seems to me you will add another weight to the economic scale which is steadily rising against the system of yellow indentured labour. I think that the provision of extra police at the cost of the mineowners and the more stringent application of the repatriation clauses, sending Chinamen back in much larger numbers than has hitherto been done, will be found to be the best plan that can at present be adopted to meet the complaints of certain sections of the inhabitants of the Witwatersrand Reef. Now, I think the extra taxation which these provisions will imply is already producing its effect upon the mineowners themselves. I believe they are not nearly so enamoured of the success of their endeavours as they were a few months ago. It is true that the opinions of the white miners in South Africa have become increasingly adverse to Chinese labour. My information, which I have received from a source impossible to doubt, was that there had been a real movement of opinion among the British working-class community in Johannesburg against Chinese labour, and that opinion has been fostered and stimulated by the speeches made in the House of Commons during the lifetime of the present Parliament. If that be true, is it not a good augury and a good ground for standing to the policy we have already declared of trusting to the judgment and the decision of a freely and fairly elected Transvaal Parliament? I am bound to say that I believe that when the British working class population of Johannesburg and many of those men now employed in the gold mines who have been asked to attend demonstrations against the Liberal Government, to help in the burning of my right hon. friend in effigy, to sign resolutions of protest against the anti-Chinese policy of the Government, have an opportunity, as they will very soon, of voting under the secrecy of the ballot, the Parliament they will elect in the Transvaal will certainly not be a mineowners' Parliament. If we could only have at this stage in the Chinese labour controversy a fair experiment—such as the one Mr. Creswell attempted and was prevented from carrying through—as to whether the mines can be really worked with a high proportion of white labour and Kaffirs, carrying out at the same time some sort of reform in the methods of recruiting native labour, at present in an extremely unsatisfactory state, and I believe in a state not to be long maintained—if we could get these two important steps taken in the course of the next few months—and I am not without hopes that they may be taken—then I believe that at the very time when the Transvaal Assembly will be called upon to pronounce on this experiment all the evidence will be in their possession necessary to enable them to come to a decision to determine the whole position of the Chinese labour question. Do not let me mislead the Committee as to my views of Chinese labour. The more one looks into this experiment, the more one has to administer it from day to day, as we have been forced to do from no fault of our own, the more the dislike of the system and of the people concerned in the system grows. But I differ in one respect in the point of view from my hon. friend. Chinese labour to me and to my colleagues in the Government dealing with South African affairs is not the only question that we have to face. It is part of the general South African situation; and I hope that I do not part company from my hon. friend when I say that, important as Chinese labour is, I consider the constitutional settlement we are about to make of even greater and more momentous importance. The policy which animated the Prime Minister and his colleagues in appointing a Commission to investigate the Transvaal constitutional question has been, so far as its results may be discerned, attended by a very great measure of success. We have not yet received the Report of the Commissioners, and until it is received it will be premature, not merely to express any opinion, but to attempt to form a final opinion. From information which reaches us from day to day, and week to week, we have every reason to believe that when the Report is received—perhaps it will be received in the course of a week or ten days—it will be found to contain all the materials and facts necessary for an immediate decision as to policy. We shall then know how the various principles of representation and franchise will work out when applied to the conditions that prevail in the Transvaal. We shall know the views of each Party and of both races, of each group and each Party in the Transvaal, on these various principles. We shall know what each wants and what they are each prepared to take. We shall know the points of difference, the insuperable points of difference which have prevented them from coming to agreement. It is true that in the mere process of investigation and discussion these points of difference have been whittled down to so small a compass that there were good hopes that an actual *concordat* on this question might have been reached between the two races in the community. But the decision which has to be taken by the Government very shortly has been enormously simplified and narrowed by the work which has been performed by the Commission; and I think I should not be at all over-sanguine if I were to assure the Committee that perhaps within the compass of six weeks it may be possible to make some decisive settlement of the constitutional question. If we were able by some good fortune to make a settlement in the Transvaal between the two races which would be lasting, which would give the Boers a direct partnership in the British Empire so that both races might work and live together and wrangle together in the rough-and-tumble of representative institutions, then I say that we should have achieved a work which would linger in the minds of the people of South Africa long after every trace of this hideous Chinese monstrosity has been effaced from human recollection. It would be vain and rash at this juncture, however, when so much hangs in the balance, were we to depart from the policy which for good or ill we declared to Parliament at the beginning of the session, and which was then accepted reluctantly but solidly and plainly by our colleagues.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER, as a personal explanation, said that he had no intention of attributing fraud in anything that had been done by the Colonial Office. The Colonial Office was represented in his eye by Lord Elgin, Lord Selborne, and the Under-Secretary for the Colonies. He had never made and never could make any suggestion of fraud against these gentlemen or the Government in South Africa.

*MR. CHURCHILL said that he was grateful for the right hon. Gentleman's assurance, and regretted that he had misinterpreted his words.

*MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester) said that everyone who had followed the unfortunate affairs of the Transvaal would hail with a great deal of satisfaction the final passages of the speech of the Under-Secretary for the Colonies. He alluded to the passages in which it was foreshadowed that within a very short period—the hon. Gentleman ventured to say within six weeks—there might be a representative Government in the Transvaal. At the same time he thought the Government would do well not to be too hurried even in so good an object, and more particularly if it was really hoped to solve the Chinese labour question in a satisfactory way by handing it over in its present state to a Transvaal assembly for a final settlement. On the question of Chinese labour, he regretted that the

Under-Secretary had not gone a little further in the statement he had made to the Committee. He was bound to say he doubted very much whether, if the speeches of Liberal candidates during the election had been couched in the same tone of excessive moderation, or if hon. Members opposite had been so moderate in their positive proposals on this subject, the enthusiasm of the electors would have been so high as it was. Was there any considerable proportion of hon. Members sitting on the Ministerial side who thought that the electors of the country would have been satisfied at the election if they had been led to believe that all a Liberal Government was going to do in respect of Chinese labour was to put into more active operation certain provisions of the Ordinance relating to expatriation and more effective policing of the compounds? The electors would have declared that the speeches to-day were not at all in harmony with the posters on the hoardings during the election, and by means of which Liberal candidates supported their candidatures. The country had expected a great deal more than had been declared now. They expected, and he hoped that they might still expect, more drastic action than had been foreshadowed by the Under-Secretary. The people did not want the Chinamen to be left in South Africa at all; they did not want this abominable system to come to an end of itself, which was all the speech of the Under-Secretary amounted to. They wanted some guarantee that a definite and positive method would be adopted to send the Chinamen, whether criminal or not, back to China on the ground that they were in South Africa at present in a position which was tantamount to slavery. But the speech of the Under-Secretary had not foreshadowed any such policy of repatriation. The question he wished specially to bring forward, however, was that of Natal. Since that subject was last discussed a valuable Blue-book had been published. It dealt with matters that were still being fought for, and he would not raise them now. The time would come when the House might have to consider whether the revelations made in the Blue-book and in newspapers like the *Natal Mercury*—revelations made with all the authority of Sir James Hewlett—about the character of the police and the character of the magistrates appointed to administer the disturbed districts of Natal—ought not to be made the subject of very serious official representations to the Government of Natal. So far as it related to the collection of the poll-tax the Blue-book contained statements which seemed to give colour to the rumours floating about in Natal that a deliberate attempt had been made to get the natives to rise in rebellion in order that certain things might happen. It had been said, for instance, that the land was wanted. How was it possible to explain the extraordinary state of things in Natal except upon some such assumption as that? When the poll-tax was imposed it was definitely stated in the Act imposing it that the tax would not be collected by force until May 31st following the January in which it became due. The 6th clause of the Poll-Tax Act of 1905 provided that—

> "If any person liable to the poll-tax shall fail to pay the same within two months after the due date thereof, he shall be guilty of a contravention of this Act: provided that no native shall be deemed to have been guilty of a contravention of this Act as aforesaid, and no legal proceedings shall be taken against such native until after the 31st day of May in any year in respect of the poll-tax due on the 1st day of January immediately preceding."

In view of that, how could the fact be explained that natives were being prosecuted and handcuffed by policemen about the middle of February? Why were armed forces being sent to collect the tax from natives at the end of January and in the beginning and middle of February, if the clause was ever meant to be operative? These questions were now being fought out in Natal and perhaps this was not the proper time to raise them. But there was one question which must be raised now—he referred to the position of Dinuzulu, who was the most powerful man amongst the natives. The Blue-book showed this to be the case, and the information to hand since the rising also showed it. Surely a powerful man in that special position ought to be particularly well protected both by the Natal Government and the Home Government at the present moment. They knew that Dinuzulu was surrounded by people upon whom the most severe pressure was being put to manufacture stories about this great chief. In one of the very earliest pages of the Blue-book they were told that these anonymous bearers of tittle-tattle were listened to by the Government representatives in Natal. Poisoned stories were poured into the ears of our responsible representatives about Dinuzulu's schemes for a rising amongst the natives and secret goings on, and those stories had been proved to be untrue. They were repeated time after time, and yet this remarkable chief remained apparently perfectly loyal and almost unaffected by this abominable conspiracy which was evidently intended to drive him into rebellion. Let them take as an example the statement made on May 2nd, in the *Times of Natal.* Quoting from the *Rand Daily Mail*, that organ said—

> "The Zulu rising is nothing more or less than a deliberately organised rebellion of a most diabolical order, of which Dinuzulu is the instigator and head. These impressive words would become more impressive were we permitted to publish the name of the speaker and further to divulge the Zulu plan of campaign which was formulated. The Natal Government, however, are in possession of the Zulu plans and have forwarded a cordial letter of thanks to the authority who warned them of their danger."

Had the Government been furnished with the Zulu plan and the name of this authority or would they ask the Natal Government to place them in possession of it? All this was simply nonsense and humbug. He wondered if it would be possible to find out whether the South African correspondent of the *Standard* and *The Times* and the gentleman who wrote the article from which he had quoted in the *Rand Daily Mail* were one and the same person? The *Standard* correspondent in South Africa proclaimed one day "that he (Dinuzulu) has joined Bambaata with 600 men." That was proved to be untrue. A few days after this it was said that Dinuzulu had "doctored" five companies of his men for war. That statement was now discredited. In *The Times* of the 4th instant a Pietermaritzburg correspondent, while accusing Dinuzulu of machinations, said—

> "The unrest now disturbing the natives of South Africa is always connected with with Dinuzulu's name. Unfortunately, there is not much reason to believe that any injustice is thereby done to Dinuzulu."

He went on further—

> "If the information I have been able to obtain would not satisfy a court of law"—

they saw how the insinuation was conveyed—

> "it is at least sufficiently trustworthy to put the white population on its guard and serve as a warning to the British public that the native problem in South Africa is both real and serious."

He was bound to say that nothing more contemptible than the campaign against Dinuzulu had ever been transacted in the somewhat tainted records of our relation with natives from the beginning. These statements published in our newspapers amounted to nothing short of seditious libel, and he would respectfully urge upon the Government the desirability of protecting Dinuzulu against those charges. Surely something could be done to prevent the publication of these lying statements by anonymous correspondents — by gentleman who seemed to be playing the part of a stage army, at one time corresponding with one paper and at another time with another. Some action should be taken to protect Dinuzulu against a conspiracy to drive him into rebellion. He thought it was the duty of the

Government to give the Committee some assurance that Dinuzulu would be protected against this conspiracy which undoubtedly was being promoted against him. By doing so they would help to limit the unfortunate rebellion from which Natal was at present suffering.

*MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside) said he cordially associated himself with the request of the hon. Member for Leicester, that the Government should pay serious heed to the sinister drama now being unrolled in Natal. The conspiracy was not only against Dinuzulu. There was reason to suppose that a number of persons shaping the destinies of the Empire were seriously desirous of having a native war; and there were many signs that attempts were being made to provoke native feeling in other parts of South Africa exactly in the manner in which it was being provoked in Natal. That was a matter of much seriousness, and he looked for some kind of assurance from the Government on that subject. He was still dissatisfied with the position of the Government in regard to Chinese labour. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies had offered them certain encouragement and grounds for hope, and he had given certain suggestions and reasons why they should let this matter stand as it was now. He regretted to say that the securities offered by the Under-Secretary were not of a very valid kind. The assurances that Chinese labour in the Transvaal was being rendered uneconomic were of the same kind as statements that had been current in the past year. There were 16,000 licences issued just before the present Government came into office, and just before that they were told that the mineowners found that the experiment was not worth carrying on. The Under-Secretary had told the Committee also that white opinion in the Transvaal was increasingly adverse to the use of Chinese labour. Was the hon. Gentleman not aware that white opinion was unanimously adverse to the first introduction of Chinese labour? The miners gave the strongest expression in their power against Chinese labour before it was introduced. A mass meeting of 5,000 was held and expressed detestation of Chinese labour. After that it was forced on them. Did any hon. Member doubt the attitude of white opinion in the Transvaal in regard to Chinese labour? [AN HON. MEMBER: They had no vote.] The Committee knew that the miners were in the hands of the employers now, just as they were then. Perhaps he might quote a letter written from the Transvaal, dated 26th December, 1903, as showing the fashion in which the mineowners controlled and made opinion on the subject of Chinese labour. It was written by one who was a strong believer in the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. The writer said—

> "It is our only hope that Mr. Chamberlain will not forget us in the midst of his own campaign. If he only knew how we all look to him I am sure he would not."

He read the following to show how the men were being dealt with by the employers—

> "The way we are being forced to fall in with our masters on this question would make your blood boil. Talk about political freedom! It does not exist for the man on the mines. We were ordered into Johannesburg the other night to break up an anti-Chinese meeting, were given eighteen inches of steel rope to do it with, and had our rail fares paid. Need I say that along with others I refused to go? Then a petition to the Legislative Council (for we are still a Crown colony without any say in the government of the country) is sent round the office for signature. Along with five others I refused to sign that. The next day it is again sent round, the chief draughtsman himself coming to each of us individually, Again we refused to sign. The next day, not the petition, but a black list is brought round with the names who had refused to sign typewritten along with a letter from the general manager (a ——— American-German) demanding our reason for doing so, if we still refused to sign. Although knowing that it meant that we were finished on the property, Chinese or no Chinese, we everyone of us wrote "Refuse to sign—refuse to give reasons" and now await

our dismissal without the prospect of employment elsewhere, as the five big houses who control the Rand stick to each other in a case like this."

He had received later information that what was expected did happen. The men were dismissed. Some hon. Members apparently supposed that when self-government was given to the Transvaal this sort of thing would be prevented. Economic pressure would go on then as now. They knew from the testimony of the right hon. Member for Morpeth how the employers coerced the men in the mines. They knew that when they gave self-government to the Transvaal they would deliver the Colony to the rule of the men who brought about the South African War, and these men were capable of doing a number of things which the Under-Secretary did not seem to contemplate. If there was the slightest sign of a return to Boer domination under the new constitution they would get up an appeal to this country to put down that domination. What the hon. Gentleman had offered as securities were no securities at all. In regard to the hon. Gentleman's defence of the Ordinance for repatriation, he would point out that the Ordinance did not in any form offer what he and his friends understood from the Government it was their intention to do. What they understood was that they were going to offer Chinamen instantly an opportunity to go home at the expense of the British Government. What was the Ordinance that was put forward? It was an Ordinance hedged round with threats and conditions, and even if it was understood by the coolie it would not be taken advantage of by one in a thousand. It was not an offer of a free return. The coolies must contribute so much if they had money to contribute. It seemed to many that the real object of the Ordinance was to deter the Chinese from returning to their own country. It was nothing to be assured of the personal integrity of Lord Selborne. The personal integrity of all officials ought to be assumed, and that question ought never to have been raised. What they had to do with was the policy of Lord Selborne. The initial mistake of the Government was made when they did not recall Lord Selborne. The Government knew that Lord Selborne was pledged to maintain a policy which they were pledged to overthrow, and yet they continued him at the head of affairs in South Africa. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had said that Chinese labour was a dead issue. He ought to know something of dead issues. One dead issue which the right hon. Gentlemen had miscalculated had been discussed this afternoon, namely, the proposal to spend more capital in settling white men in the Transvaal. Why was it a dead issue? There was one kind of imposition which they could not make on the people of this country—they could not induce them to lay out more millions in settling white men in the Transvaal while carrying out a Conservative policy of driving away white men from that country. That was an absurdity which would not be repeated. Of course, that policy was defended by the hon. Member for Gravesend, who had taken the Empire under his protection in these matters. The hon. Member and others said that this ought to be done in order to maintain our position in South Africa. The sentimentalism known by the name of Imperialism was the most blatant of all sentimentalisms in British politics. That kind of sentimentalism aimed at a state of things which would enable them to go about boasting of the greatness of the British Empire. He ventured to say that an Empire, the main industry of which was supported by and lived, as in South Africa, on the degradation of Chinese labour, was a thing that cumbered the ground and stood in the way of civilisation. The first purpose for which the Government was returned to power was not to maintain Imperialism in that sense, but to undo some of the crimes which had been done in the name of Empire. Chinese labour was a fraud committed on the British people. If the people of this country could have had the faintest inkling of what was going to follow the conclusion of the war in this respect, they would have prevented the war from occurring. The Government was pledged to the removal of that "fraud." The Under-Secretary totally under-estimated the difficulties which lay before the Government. The Government had failed to recognise the strength of the forces they were contending with. They were fighting the organised capitalism which ruled at Johannesburg, and they supposed that they could get behind that capitalism by a few constitutional devices. The capitalism which got behind the good sense of this nation in bringing about the war would be able to get behind the constitutional arrangements now to be made if the same men were left in possession of Chinese labour as an institution. It was on these grounds that he and some of his friends were dissatisfied with the explanation given by the Under-Secretary, and they appealed to the Prime Minister to take further action which would justify them in the eyes of the nation. Hon. Gentlemen opposite were pleased to profess to believe that the cry against Chinese labour was a political device; if they would suggest in whose case it was a political device a settlement of the matter might be nearer. Every two Liberals out of three demanded the abolition of Chinese labour in the Transvaal. He thought the Prime Minister would not suspect of any lack of loyalty to his Administration those who held these views. They appealed to him to take a stronger line in this matter than he had yet taken. He would not say that it was absolutely necessary to recall Lord Selborne; but for the amazing document which had been issued in regard to the repatriation of the Chinese and which had been received with laughter by the House, the Government must substitute a real offer. Then it would be seen whether the coolies wished to return home or not. What the Under-Secretary had told the Committee would lead them to believe that a great many Chinamen wanted to get home in order to get rid of their gambling debts. Why make their return more difficult? It was known that hundreds of the Chinese who had been brought to South Africa were criminals. There was no shame on that score on the part of those who backed up the policy of Chinese labour. There were scores of men amongst the coolies who were known to be habitual criminals, and the Government knew that it was leading to a state of things in which there was likely to be an outbreak of murder, suicide, or robbery.

*SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) said the hon. Gentleman and others had made a discovery which many on the Opposition side had had made long ago, namely, that there was a great and extraordinary discrepancy between the pledges given by the Liberal Party before the election and their fulfilment when they got into power. What was the meaning of the Liberal posters, handbills, and speeches at election time if they were not intended to convey to the country that if the Liberal Party were returned to power they would put an end to Chinese labour? The employment of Chinese labour was represented to be a disgraceful and monstrous thing, and it was implied, if not openly stated, that if the Liberal Party were returned to power that monstrous state of things would be instantly put an end to. The hon. Member for the Tyneside Division had used the word "fraud" in connection with the question of Chinese labour. —Yes, but by whom was the fraud committed? The Members of the Opposition said before the election, as they said now, that, whatever their wishes might be, it was entirely out of the power of the Liberal Party to fulfil the pledges with which they misled the country. [AN HON. MEMBER: Why?] The reasons why had been given that afternoon, lamely if they liked, by the Under-Secretary. As far as the Opposition were concerned they would leave the Government to fight the matter out with their own supporters, for they felt that the issues connected with South Africa were far too grave to be turned into a mere Party issue. After what had happened, however, he thought that any fair-minded man would admit that they would be entitled to take the fullest Party advantage out of the discrepancy between the promises made before the election and the manner of their fulfilment. He, for his part, would be contented if the Government would stick to what was said by the Under-Secretary this afternoon, and leave this issue to the decision of the colonists.

*MR. BRODIE (Surrey, Reigate) said the hon. Member for Leicester, in his references to Natal, and the position of Dinizulu appeared to be a little too much impressed by newspaper gossip. It was quite wrong that untruthful reports regarding the loyalty of Dinizulu should be circulated by the Press or by anyone; but it must be remembered that the Natal Government were not impressed by these reports. In the Natal Blue-book the Governor of that Colony referred to the fact that his Ministers had complete confidence in Dinizulu. The speech of the hon. Member for Newbury, interesting and full of information, was marred, quite unintentionally, no doubt, by an ungenerous reference to Lord Elgin, by a certain exaggeration in the use of the valuable statistics which had been collected, and on which its arguments were based, and by an entire want of sympathy with the spirit of the colonists, and the spirit of the Liberal Party in regard to colonial self-government. Lord Elgin needed no defence from him. He deprecated any exaggeration in the use of statistics in that House. He would say to the hon. Member that he was quite in error in thinking that the greater proportion, or even a great proportion, of the Liberal victories at the last election were won on South African questions. A very large number of Liberal Members fought their elections on social reform based upon free trade. They adhered to the policy laid down in the great speech of the Prime Minister in the Albert Hall, in which he declared that no further importations of Chinese should be allowed than had been sanctioned, and that a democratic measure of self-government should be introduced when these matters should be left to the people of South Africa to decide for themselves.

Mr. WALSH rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put," but the Chairman withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

Debate resumed.

*MR. BRODIE said the majority of Liberal Members would be dissatisfied if the Government failed to carry out their declared policy of leaving the people in South Africa to manage their own affairs.

And, it being Five of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at three minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 11*th June*, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY ENQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz:—West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz: — South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz: — Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz: — Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.

Kettering Water Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords]. Verbal Amendments made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Mersey Railway Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill. Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

North Sussex Gas and Water Bill [Lords]. Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

North West London Railway Bill (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill (by Order). Read the third time, and passed.

Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill. Considered; to be read the third time upon Wednesday.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; From Checkley; Edwalton; Holmesfield; Narborough

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

St. Albans; Wimborne; and, Wytham; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; From Darwen; Early Heaton; Hockerill (two); Much Marcle (two); Oldham; St. Andrew's, Manchester; St. Andrew's, Shenley (two); and, Watford; to lie upon the Table.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition of the Royal Sanitary Institute, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL.

Petition from Leicester and other places, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; From Birmingham; Buckrose; Bury St. Edmunds (two); Bute; Camberwell, North; Chelsea; Darwen (two); Dewsbury; East Grinstead; East Hull (two); Galashiels; Hallam; Hawick (three); Haywards Heath; and Wansbeck; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Petition of the Royal Sanitary Institute, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ROYAL PATRIOTIC FUND CORPORATION.

Copy presented, of Second Report of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation for the year 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the County Borough of Burnley, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Borough [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 5th June 1906, granting a retired allowance to David Henriques, Engineer, Second Class Engineer in Chief's Departments, Post Office, under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3625 to 3628 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Monaghan Post Office.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General if, in view of the fact that the site for the new post office for Monaghan is now under consideration for over four years, and that the office at present occupied has been condemned as unsanitary, he will say when it may be expected to be completed; and if, in view of the fact that the staff at the office are compelled to work under disadvantageous circumstances, owing to the noxious smells and sewer gas from the basement, steps will be taken to either complete the purchase of the site under consideration, for which the money was voted in 1903, or to accept the site offered to the Post Office in Market Street.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am fully aware of the necessity for a new post office in Monaghan, and, as I stated on the 23rd ultimo,† in reply to a Question asked by the hon. Member for that town, I hope that the legal difficulties in regard to the site, which have caused the delay, will be removed at an early date. It would be unwise, I think, at this stage to consider another site.

Employment of Foreign Servants by Admiralty Officials.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether there is any regulation prohibiting officers serving in a confidential capacity at the Admiralty from employing foreign servants or using them to carry despatch boxes to or from their private residences.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 1300.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) There is no such regulation.

Pensions for Town Sub-Postmasters.

MR. WEDGWOOD BENN (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): To ask the Postmaster-General whether there is any pension or bonus for town sub-postmasters after a certain number of years service.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Town sub-postmasters are generally shopkeepers giving part of their time only to the service of the Post Office. Such sub-postmasters are not eligible for the award of pension or gratuity under the Superannuation Acts.

Persons under Twenty-one Committed to Prison in Lieu of Payment of Fine.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young persons under the age of twenty-one were committed to prison in default of paying fines in 1904 and 1905; and whether he can issue an instruction to the magistrates to grant a week's grace for the payment of fines when the persons can either give security or possess a settled domicile.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I am afraid I cannot give the desired information, as the collection of the particulars would necessitate a careful search through nearly 215,000 warrants of commitment. With regard to the second part of the Question, I have no power to give to magistrates an instruction such as is suggested, but a circular was issued from the Home Office in June of last year urging magistrates to allow prisoners full opportunities for paying the fines imposed upon them, and I have no reason to suppose that magistrates disregard the considerations then brought to their notice.

Elementary Schools with only one Teacher.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): To ask the President of the Board of Education if he can state the number of elementary schools in England and Wales in which there is only one teacher of any kind, and the number in which there is only one teacher and a pupil teacher.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The following tables show the number of departments as well as the number of schools:—

I. Table showing the number of elementary schools in England and Wales with certain specified staff, on the last day of the school year ended in the year 1904–5.

	England.	Wales and Monmouthshire.	England and Wales.
Number of schools with only one teacher of any kind - -	1,573	221	1,794
Number of schools with one teacher and a pupil teacher -	126	26	152
Number of schools with one additional teacher but no pupil teacher - - - - -	3,281	334	3,615
Number of schools with one additional teacher and a pupil teacher - - - -	466	73	539

II. Table showing the number of departments in elementary schools in England and Wales with certain specified staff, on the last day of the school year ended in the year 1904–5.

	England.	Wales and Monmouthshire.	England and Wales.
Number of departments with only one teacher of any kind -	1,861	230	2,091
Number of departments with one teacher and a pupil teacher -	244	37	281
Number of departments with one additional teacher but no pupil teacher - - - -	4,365	386	4,751
Number of departments with one additional teacher and a pupil teacher - - - -	939	113	1,052

Beer Allowances of British Regiments Serving in India.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether commanding officers of British regiments serving in India have, under the Army Regulations, to draw for their regimental canteens a fixed minimum quantity of country brewed ale; that they can only obtain, under regimental arrangement, such British brewed ales as may be required in excess of this minimum quantity; and, if so, whether he will inquire into the matter with the view of having such regulation withdrawn, so that the freedom of choice by the men should not be thus restricted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The facts as stated by the hon. Member are correct with regard to many, though not all, of the British regiments in India, and I see no reason to question the propriety of the practice.

Life-Saving Facilities at the Mouth of the Tyne.

MR. H. J. CRAIG (Tynemouth): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to a memorial signed by the leading shipowners on the North-East coast, and forwarded to the Management Committee of the National Lifeboat Institution, dealing with the life-saving facilities at the mouth of the River Tyne; and whether he proposes to take any action in regard to the questions raised in the memorial.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I have received a copy of a memorial stating the necessity of a lifeboat being stationed at Tynemouth. The question is one for the consideration of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, whom I have consulted, and who state that in addition to the Institution's motor lifeboat at the mouth of the Tyne, there are four other lifeboats stationed at North and South Shields by the Tyne Lifeboat Society. The Institution do not consider that another lifeboat is required, and I, as at present advised, do not propose to take any action in the matter.

Postal Linemen and Foremen.

MR. J. WILLIAMS BENN (Devonport): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the proposed increase of established linemen and foremen as notified in the Civil Service Estimates for 1905 and 1906, he can state the reason of delay in creating the appointments; whether the persons, when appointed, will be required to work fifty-four hours per week, that is three and a half hours longer than the present average; and whether the appointments, when made, will date back from the commencement of the present financial year, 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The delay in filling up the foremen's places shown in the Estimates for last year is due to certain changes of arrangements which it is hoped will soon be completed. No additional appointments to the lineman's class are shown either in the Estimates for last year or in those for this year; but a number of fresh appointments have been sanctioned, and these are being filled. The question of the hours of duty has been under consideration, but no decision will be given pending the Report of the Select Committee. The appointments will date from the issue of the Civil Service certificate in each case.

Appointment of Learner to Vacancy in Mallow Post Office.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he can state when a competitive examination for male learners, in accordance with the regulations, will be held in Mallow to fill up the vacancies at present existing in the local post office.

(*Answered by Mr. Sidney Buxton.*) There is an excess of learners in Ireland, and the number and distribution of the force are at present under revision. So far as can be judged, there will be no need for a competition at Mallow for some time to come.

Sale of Stamps at Naas.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can see his way to the re-establishment of an office for distribution of stamps in Naas, county Kildare, other than the general post office; and, failing that, whether he will extend the time for closing the Naas general post office up to 10 p.m. on week-days.

(*Answered by Mr. Sidney Buxton.*) The question of the re-establishment of a separate office for the distribution of stamps in Naas is one for the Board of Inland Revenue. The Naas post office is open until 8.15 p.m., and I do not see my way to keep it open later, having regard to the fact that 8 p.m. is the usual hour of closing offices of this class.

Sanitary Condition of Houses in the Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state why the Local Government Board for Scotland fail to require the public health authority for the Island of Lewis to request the proprietor to put in a sanitary condition the houses in the island, inhabited by crofters, from whom he receives rent.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The Local Government Board have done all they can to have the provisions of the Public Health Act enforced in the Lewis, but they have no power or duty to dictate further to the local authority as to the person against whom they are to proceed where there is neglect of any particular requirement of the Act.

Migration of Island of Lewis Men to the Mainland.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he has received a letter from several cottars resident at Upper Bayble, Island of Lewis, expressing their willingness to transfer themselves to the mainland provided that the Congested Districts Board arrange reasonable aid for their settlement; and will he state at what part of the mainland it is proposed to establish this new settlement; and will the Board consider the expediency of making the conditions of migration known throughout the island by means of posters in the different townships.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I have received a letter from several persons living at Upper Bayble stating that the Landward Committee had not made known to them the proposals of the Congested Districts Board for the migration of Lewis men to the mainlands of Scotland, and further inquiries are being made into the matter.

Scottish Prison Officials.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he will take steps towards improving the position of the prison officials in Scotland, with a view to placing them on a par with English prison officials, who are doing similar work with the same responsibilities and the same duties to discharge.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I beg to refer the hon. Member to the reply given to a Question by the hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire on the 10th ultimo.†

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1453.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, in what foreign countries and in what British Possessions there was foot-and-mouth disease in each of the years from 1901 to 1905, inclusive.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) Foot-and-mouth disease was reported to exist in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Argentina in each of the years from 1901 to 1905 inclusive, in Denmark in 1901 and 1904, in the Netherlands and in Spain in each year from 1901 to 1904 inclusive, in the United States and in Portugal in 1902 and 1903, and in Turkey in 1901, 1903, 1904, and 1905. We have no information as to the existence of the disease in any of the British Possessions, except in India, during the period in question.

Motor Omnibuses in the Metropolis.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been directed to the fact that a number of motor omnibuses have been licensed to ply for fares in the metropolis which are so badly constructed that they constantly break down, causing obstruction in the public thoroughfares, which are permitted to carry more passengers than they can comfortably hold, which in many cases emit clouds of noxious vapour, which are driven recklessly to the public danger, largely owing to the terms of employment of the drivers, and which are often started while passengers are descending the stairs, owing to the terms of employment of the conductors; and whether he will immediately take steps to withdraw the licences which have been issued in respect of these vehicles.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The question of the conditions under which motor omnibuses are to be licensed is one which requires, and is constantly receiving, very careful consideration. The vehicles are still largely in an experimental stage, and though strict conditions with a view to public safety are already enforced, it is perhaps early as yet to require the companies to remedy all the defects to which they are subject. There have been numerous prosecutions for reckless driving, and many faulty vehicles have been prohibited from plying for hire. The emission of vapours and other points are receiving the attention of the Commissioner of Police and his advisers.

Irish County Courts—Revenue and Expenditure.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the average annual income for the last five years, derived from stamps and other duties in the Irish county courts; what is the average total annual cost of those courts to the Exchequer, for same period; what is the average annual income for the last five years from stamps aud other duties in the petty sessions courts in Ireland; what is the cost to the Exchequer for the same period; whether it is out of the surplus income from the petty sessions courts that it is proposed to partially finance the proposed Labourers Act of this session; or how otherwise is the petty sessions clerks fund made up; and what sum, on the average of the past five years, is received by the Exchequer out of fines and penalties imposed in the Irish petty sessions courts.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) As regards Irish county courts, the average annual income for the last five years is £24,331 14s. 7d., and the average annual cost for the same period is £64,481 19s. 9d. As regard the petty sessions courts, the average annual amount available to meet expenditure in connection with these courts for the five years to 31st December 1904, up to which date the figures have been audited, was £88,574, made up as follows:—

	£
Petty sessions stamps - -	24,217
Fines - - - - - -	14,733
Interest on invested funds -	5,652
Miscellaneous receipts - - - -	252
Receipts under Dogs Act, 1865 -	43,720

The receipts under the Dogs Act are drawn upon only to the extent necessary to meet the excess of actual expenditure over the other income of the courts, the average amount so drawn having been £26,129. The Exchequer is at no cost in connection with these courts. It is not out of surplus income, but out of the interest on a capital sum of £150,000, being part of a capital sum of about £179,000 now invested in consols and railway debenture stock, itself the produce of surplus incomes in former years, that it is proposed partially to finance the Labourers Bill of this session. The petty sessions clerks fund is derived from the sources indicated above. The receipts by the Exchequer out of fines and penalties (merchant shipping fines) amounted to an average of £11 4s. 11d. for the last five years.

Sale of Land for Golf Links by the Irish Congested Districts Board.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland did the Congested Districts Board ever sell any land to the Midland Great Western Railway Company of Ireland for the purpose of golf links; and, if so, when and for what price, and where it is situated.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Congested Districts Board have not sold any land to the Midland Great Western Railway Company, but have given them the use of some sandy land near Mulranny for golf links from May 1901, subject to six months' notice to quit. The land in question is practically useless for agricultural purposes.

Sale of Mr. Canning's Grazing Farm at Ballyvary, County Mayo.

DR. AMBROSE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the price paid by the Congested Districts Board to Mr. Canning, of Ballyvary, near Castlebar, county Mayo, for his grazing farm at Keelogues; what was his interest therein; what was the date of the lease or agreement, if any; has the Board purchased from the same gentleman a grazing farm at Windsor, near Castlebar; if so, what was the price paid to him for it, and what was Mr. Canning's interest in the Windsor farm.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Congested Districts Board paid £500 for Mr. Canning's interest in the farm of Lisaniska, near Keelogues, on the Bingham Estate. Mr. Canning held under a lease of twenty-one years from 1st November, 1888. The Board have not purchased any other farm from Mr. Canning.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Greenwich Observatory.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the result of the tests recently carried out to determine the effect of the London County Council power station on the instruments used at Greenwich Observatory; and whether the Observatory is to be removed from Greenwich.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. LAMBERT, Devonshire, South Molton): A full examination of the whole question is now being conducted, and it would be premature to make any statement on the subject.

MR. ASHLEY: When may we have some answer on this very important subject? I have been asking two months.

MR. LAMBERT: When the examination is completed.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): May I ask the hon. Gentleman whether, if the inquiry should prove that the power station is an injury to the Observatory, he will consider the solution of removing the power station instead of the Observatory?

MR. LAMBERT: That is a hypothetical Question which I do not feel called upon to answer.

Army Meat Contracts.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether in the new Army contract forms for the supply of meat to the Army and Militia when out training Home-killed beef is specified, whereas in previous contract forms Home-bred beef was always required; whether this change was made with his approval; and, if so, whether he will say why the change was made.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): The reply to the first two Questions is in the affirmative. The reason for the change was to enable the War Office to get the best fresh meat at the lowest price for the soldier.

Elementary Education in India.

Mr. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that in the last published quinquennial report on education of the Government of India, compiled by Mr. Nathan, of the Indian Civil Service, the amount of direct expenditure on elementary education in India out of State funds, apart from fees and local funds, is stated to be only £90,000 for the year 1901–2, the last year for which figures are given; and will he state what corresponding amount was spent by the State during last year.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs): I had a communication made to the Government of India at once on seeing the hon. Member's Question, and hope to have an immediate reply.

Tibetan Indemnity.

Sir H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the first instalment of the Tibetan indemnity due on January 1st has now been paid, and, if so, when and where; whether, if paid, the amount is Rs. 833,000 instead of Rs. 100,000 which is the instalment due under the Tibetan agreement of September 7th, 1904; whether this amount has been paid or is guaranteed by the Chinese Government; whether it is now proposed to receive payment of the indemnity in three annual instalments instead of twenty-five as was originally intended; and whether, the other conditions of the convention of September 7th having been duly complied with by the Tibetans, the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley will cease after the payment of three instalments of the indemnity.

Mr. MORLEY: (1) and (2) A first instalment of the Tibetan indemnity amounting to Rs. 8,33,333 was paid to the Accountant-General of Bengal at Calcutta by the Sechung Shape on May 29th. (3) It is understood that the money has been supplied to the Tibetan Government by the Chinese Government. (4) His Majesty's Government have agreed to accept the indemnity in three instalments of Rs. 8,33,333 each. (5) It has always been the intention that the occupation of the Chumbi Valley should cease after three years, provided the instalments of the indemnity have been paid, and the other conditions of the convention complied with.

Mr. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Will the right hon. Gentleman consider whether, having regard to the circumstances under which that indemnity was obtained—in recompense for a raid we made—it would not be in accordance with the honour and glory of the Empire to return the indemnity?

[No Answer was returned.]

The Indian Budget.

Mr. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is now in a position to say when the Indian Budget will be taken.

Mr. MORLEY: I think it will probably be towards the end of July.

Indian Remount Department—Mr. Penson's Retirement.

Mr. SEARS (Cheltenham): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will explain why H. J. Penson, late Sub-Conductor to the Indian Remount Department, retired, has not received his retirement parchment certificate, and whether he is aware that not having received his parchment certificate his widow, in the event of his death, would not be able to draw the pension or obtain her passage home to India should she desire to return; who is responsible for the non-issue of such certificate; and whether, after twenty-two years with an absolutely clean record, Penson was deprived of his good conduct medal through being promoted to warrant rank three days only before the time arrived when he would have been entitled to it.

Mr. MORLEY: A "parchment certificate" of discharge is not given to warrant officers of Indian Army Departments on retirement, but a certificate of service and character would be issued on application. The possession of such a certificate would not affect the eligibility of a widow to pension, nor would it affect her claim to a passage to India. Under the regulations in force when Sub-Conductor Penson was promoted to warrant rank, a non-commissioned officer was required to have at least eighteen years service to qualify for the medal for long service and good conduct. Not only was Penson short of this period by four days when promoted to sub-conductor, but his promotion was subsequently ante-dated nearly two years, with corresponding increase of pay.

MR. SEARS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that the name of H. J. Penson, late of the Indian Remount Department, appears in the Indian Army List January, 1904, non-effective, p. 846, as conductor, whereas he was transferred to pension in India from January 30th, 1901, and only received pension as sub-conductor; will he state whether the conductor's pension shown in the non-effective Army List was actually drawn; and, if so, what became of the difference between the £58 received each year by Penson as sub-conductor and £90 per year he should have received according to rank in the Army List; also, why in the Indian Army List 1904, H. J. Penson is stated to be in India, whereas since 1899 he has been in England and is still drawing his pension in this country.

MR. MORLEY: Sub-Conductor H. J. Penson was placed on the pension establishment in this country on account of ill-health on January 20th, 1901, after two years absence from duty. The Government of India, not knowing that he had been pensioned, shortly afterwards notified his promotion to conductor, with effect from a date subsequent to his retirement. This led to a mistake being made in the India Army List, which, however, was pointed out to the Government of India in May, 1904, and the rank was corrected in the next issue of the Indian Army List. There is no reason to suppose that the pension as conductor has been drawn in India, and the word "India" against Sub-Conductor Penson's name in the India Army List is an error which will be pointed out to the Government of India.

Anti-Semitic Disturbances in Russia.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): On behalf of the hon. Member for Stepney, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the anti-semitic disturbances involving peril to Jewish life and property which marked the end of the last and the beginning of the present year have subsided in Russia; and whether he has any reason for apprehending the recurrence of such disturbances.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Sir EDWARD GREY): No reports of anti-semitic disturbances in Russia have recently been received by His Majesty's Government, and we have no reason to suppose that the measures taken by the Russian Government to prevent the recurrence of such disturbances will not prove effective.

Gun Running into Zululand.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if any steps have been taken to prevent gun running through Portuguese territory into Zululand.

MR. RUNCIMAN: We have not been informed that there is any risk of this being attempted, but the matter will receive attention.

Probate Registries—Appointments.

MR. SEARS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will state who exercises the patronage connected with appointments to probate registries inside London and in other parts of the United Kingdom; and whether he will consider the advisability of arranging that candidates for such employment shall be dealt with by the Civil Service Commission in the usual way.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): All appointments to the principal probate registry in London and to district probate registrarships in England and Wales are made by the President of the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division. District probate registrars receive allowances for clerical assistance out of which they employ and pay their own clerks.

The same system obtains in Ireland, the appointments being there made by the Judge of the Probate Court. In Scotland the principal probate officer is the commissary clerk, who is appointed by the Crown, and receives an allowance for clerical assistance. In accordance with the Act 39 & 40 Vic., Cap. 70, the duties of district commissary clerks, corresponding to district probate registrars in England, are discharged by the sheriff clerks. Any alteration in this system would require legislation. Any question as to the desirability of such legislation is not primarily a matter for the Treasury, but I am not aware of any sufficient grounds for considering that a change is required in the public interest.

Storage of Wills.

MR. SEARS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, seeing that a probate registry is an office for formally receiving estate duty affidavits to be sworn to without question as to accuracy or value of the items composing the estate, that the collector of Inland Revenue receives the duty and interest for which he gives a temporary receipt, and that the documents are then transmitted to London, Dublin, or Edinburgh, as the case may be, where the whole examination into values given up for duty is conducted, he will consider the advisability of not maintaining registries for the storage of wills in towns having a collector's office sometimes in the same building.

MR. ASQUITH: The collection of duty on probate of wills is only one incident in the process of probate, and is always performed by officers of Inland Revenue, who, however, could not conveniently be charged with the whole business of probate, including custody of wills. It is an error to suppose that district registrars of the Court of Probate are concerned solely with custody of wills.

Examination of Estate Affidavits.

MR. SEARS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any official information showing that the centralisation of examination of estate affidavits at headquarters, and the disregard of local knowledge possessed by revenue officials, is responsible for leakage of revenue; has his attention been directed to a case in which estate duty on £132,300 was paid on an estate in 1898, which in 1900 was floated with a capital of £450,000, when the profits were sufficient to pay all preference charges and give 8 per cent. to the ordinary shareholders and to provide for a reserve fund; and, if so, will he say what inquiry was made at the time in a case in which the loss to the revenue appears to have been something like £20,000.

MR. ASQUITH: The general experience of the Board of Inland Revenue does not confirm the inference suggested in the first portion of the Question. The Board of Inland Revenue have not, so far, been able to trace the particular case referred to; but, if the hon. Member will give the name of the deceased and date of death, further inquiries will be made.

Deportation of Aliens—Case of Sarah Rosenbaum.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): On behalf of the hon. Member for Stepney, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the observations of the magistrate at the Thames Police Court in the case of a woman named Sarah Rosenbaum, who had been previously imprisoned for soliciting, and ordered to be deported at the end of her sentence; and whether he can state why this woman was not deported in accordance with the recommendation of the police court.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that a Polish woman, named Rosenbaum, had been charged before Mr. Dickinson the magistrate who had issued a certificate recommending that she should be deported; that such woman was not deported, and at a later date came before the same magistrate again on a further charge; and what steps he proposes to take to carry out the provisions of the Aliens Act in this respect.

MR. HILLS (Durham): May I also ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of a Russian Pole, Sarah Rosenbaum, who was tried at the Thames Police Court on 2nd June for stealing; whether she had been previously convicted of soliciting and ordered by the magistrate to be deported; and whether this sentence was carried out.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I received from the magistrate sitting at the Thames Police Court on February 23rd a certificate recommending the expulsion of the girl Rosenbaum, a Polish Jewess, whom he had that day convicted of soliciting prostitution and sentenced to a fine of 20s. or ten days imprisonment. The fine was paid, but the girl was detained in prison for some days pending enquiry. On the information before me, and having regard to the fact that this was the girl's first offence, I considered that expulsion in addition to the fine and several days imprisonment would amount to too severe a punishment. In the discretion vested in me by the Act I did not make an Expulsion Order; but I caused the girl to be warned, and the magistrate to be informed, that if she brought herself for a second time within the provisions of the Act, she could not expect such leniency.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): Will the original sentence of expulsion now hold good?

*MR. GLADSTONE: That depends upon the magistrate.

French Anarchists and the Aliens Act.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his attention has been called to the fact that upwards of thirty Frenchmen known to be Anarchists were recently expelled from France, and that, though the English police had notice of the arrival of these men, they were admitted at Newhaven without any examination upon their alleging that they were political refugees; whether such persons come under the terms of exemption granted under the Aliens Act; and whether the right of asylum in this country is to be extended to persons of this character.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The facts are not accurately stated in the Question, but I am making further inquiries into the matter.

Deportation Certificates.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases have arisen under the Aliens Act where certificates have been issued recommending that certain criminal aliens should be deported; and how many of such aliens have in fact been deported from this country under the provisions of the Act.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have received, up to the present time, 246 certificates given by Courts under Section 3 of the Aliens Act; and in 105 cases I have made expulsion orders. In many cases the time has not arrived for making the Orders, as the aliens are serving sentences of imprisonment of various lengths—up to fifteen years.

Case of Annie Vischner.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: On behalf of the hon. Member for Hoxton, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will state whether any arrangements have been made to prevent the alien girl, Annie Vischner, from becoming a permanent charge upon the ratepayers of London.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I do not know. As I explained to the hon. Member on the 10th May,† the case is not one in which I have any jurisdiction.

Aliens and the Unemployed Problem.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: On behalf of the hon. Member for Hoxton, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received representations from the Rev. W. Carlile, on behalf of the Church Army, to the effect that the efforts of that body to assist thousands of starving Englishmen at home to find work are frustrated by the sweating and misery caused by the importation of indigent aliens, and requesting that the Aliens Act may be strictly enforced, so that the numbers of Englishmen who emigrate under the auspices of the Church Army will afford some relief to the overcrowded labour market at home; and what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir. I understand Mr. Carlile to mean that further legislation is required against aliens, generally, on the ground merely of indigence. The Act is being administered in accordance with the law, and I have nothing to add to my previous statements on this subject.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1474–5.

Classification of Alien Immigrants.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: On behalf of the hon. Member for Hoxton, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alien immigrants obtained admission to this country during the months of January and March 1906, respectively, without satisfying the immigration officer of their ability to support themselves and their dependents (if any) decently, on the ground that they were political refugees.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I regret that with the staff at my disposal it has not been found possible to carry out a classification of the grounds on which leave to land has been given such as would be necessary in order to furnish the figures asked for.

Loans to Alien Immigrants.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: On behalf of the hon. Member for Hoxton, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has any information pointing to the fact that a society or societies exist in order to provide alien immigrants, on loan or otherwise, with the necessary funds to enable them to comply with the requirements of the Aliens Act.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have reason to believe that the practice of furnishing an immigrant with money for this purpose does obtain in some cases. But I may point out that if the immigration officer has any reason to believe that the money produced to him by an immigrant is not the immigrant's own *bona fide* property he has instrnctions not to accept it as proof of means.

Pauperism in West Ham.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, if he will state the number of poor people that were relieved both indoor and outdoor, by the West Ham Guardians for the years ending March, 1904, 1905, and 1906.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): The official Returns give the number of paupers relieved on the 1st January and the 1st July in each year. They do not show the precise number relieved during any particular year. The mean, however of the numbers relieved in the West Ham Union on the 1st January in each of the years referred to in the Question and on the preceding 1st July, exclusive of lunatics in asylums, etc., is as follows:—Indoor paupers—3,382 in 1904, 3,642 in 1905, and 3,819 in 1906. Outdoor paupers 10,120 in 1904, 16,320 in 1905, and 14,029 in 1906.

MR. THORNE: Is it not possible to give the figures I ask for?

MR. JOHN BURNS: It would be very difficult to get the figures, and they could not be secured without a great deal of trouble on the part of the local board of guardians. But if the hon. Member wishes it, I will enter into communication with the West Ham Board of Guardians and give him as complete and detailed a list as possible.

MR. THORNE: I will accept that.

American Canned Meats.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: On behalf of the hon. Member for the Central Division of Sheffield, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the total importation of American canned meats, game, fish, fruits, and other preserved foods into the United Kingdom and the British Empire in the twelve months ending 31st December, 1900 and 1905, respectively; and, having regard to the disclosures concerning the trade in the recent report of a United States Commission presented to Congress, and the public strictures regarding it attributed to President Roosevelt, what steps he proposes to take to protect British consumers from the evil effects of partaking of such foods.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): The American Trade Returns show that the value of canned meat, fish, and fruit exported from the United States to the British Empire in the year 1900–1 was £2,764,000, of which £2,234,000 went to the United Kingdom. The corresponding figures for the year 1904–5 were £2,465,000 to the British Empire, and £2,062,000 to the United Kingdom. As regards the last part of the Question which relates to a matter of public health, I am in communication with the Local Government Board and Customs, and I am informed that all practicable steps are and will be taken by the competent Departments for the protection of British consumers. In this connection I may refer to the reply given on June 8th† by my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board to a Question by the hon. Member for the St. Patrick division of Dublin.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board what the Board proposes to do in regard to canned meats and other canned foods imported into this country.

MR. JOHN BURNS: Beyond the action mentioned in the detailed reply to the hon. Member for Dublin which was published in Saturday's papers† I have to add that what can be done by administrative action in this serious matter is being done and will be persistently continued. Representations have been made to the Foreign Office with regard to effective inspection of foodstuffs in the country from which the largest supply comes. In the event of either or both courses being insufficient, I will ask the House to grant further, and, if necessary, legislative, powers to the Local Government Board, and I rely with some confidence on the House granting such indispensable authority.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Will the right hon. Gentleman recommend boards of guardians to obtain supplies from Australia, New Zealand, and other Colonies?

[No Answer was returned.]

Marley Common.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether his attention has been drawn to the recent enclosure of part of Marley Common, situate near Haslemere; whether the consent of the Board of Agriculture, in accordance with the provisions of The Law of Commons Amendment Act, 1893, or of The Copyhold Act, 1894, or otherwise, is required for such enclosure; and whether the consent of of the Board has been given.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somerset, S.): Our attention has been drawn to the recent enclosure of part of Marley Common, but the Board have no information as to whether the land in question is common land, and they cannot, therefore, express any opinion as to whether their consent is required for the enclosure. No application has been made to the Board on the subject. I may add that under Section 26 of the Local Government Act, 1894, a district council may, under certain conditions, assist in the maintenance of rights of common and if necessary institute legal proceedings for the purpose.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): Have we no control over these waste lands?

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY asked for notice of the Question.

County Cork Evicted Tenants.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received applications for reinstatement from David Church, Ballinamona, on the Ware Estate, and Michael O'Sullivan, Ballintlea, on the Coote Estate, county Cork; and if these applications will be inquired into by the local inspector now operating in that county.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool Exchange) (for Mr. Bryce): The Answer to both parts of the Question is in the affirmative.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received a communication from Mr. John Pyne, tenant on the Kingston Estate, county Cork, to the effect that he was forced to sign an agreement to buy his holding at 26¼ years purchase by the service of a writ;

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† See Col. 617.

that since then he has had a second term rent fixed by the Land Commission and that the annual instalments, payable under the purchase agreement obtained under duress, would amount to 5 per cent. more than the judicial rent; and if a full inquiry will be made into these allegations when the estate is being inspected.

MR. CHERRY: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they cannot trace the receipt of the communication referred to and that they have no knowledge of any duress in the case. The matter will, however, be fully inquired into by the inspector who has been directed to inspect and report upon the estate.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): We understand to-morrow the Education Bill will be taken, and on Thursday Scotch Estimates, but no announcement has been made as to the business for Wednesday and Friday.

MR. ASQUITH: The Education Bill will be taken to-morrow and Wednesday. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will, to-morrow, repeat his Question with regard to Friday.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the City of London, in the room of Sir. Edward Clarke, knight, K. C. (Manor of Northstead).—*(Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.)*

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS (REGISTRATION OF PATENT AGENTS) BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, and to be printed. [Bill 248.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 2:—

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) moved to postpone consideration of Clause 2. He said that in moving the Motion which stood in his name, he was, of course, alive to the fact that enthusiastic supporters of the Bill naturally supposed that his attitude was hostile to the measure. That was quite true; he was opposed to the Bill, and he thought he would be right in saying that the Members behind him were opposed to it also. They would be glad to see the measure defeated, but that was not his object in moving the Motion standing in his name. He could not help thinking that if hon. Gentlemen opposite would consider what the position was with regard to the particular clause before them in relation to the substance of the Bill they would see there was at least considerable justification in the view which he and his friends took. Clause 2 might be said to be, at all events to a large exent, the operative clause of the Bill. It provided the method and procedure by which effect was to be given to Clause 1, and his main reason for urging his Motion upon the Committee was that until they knew what form Clauses 3, 4, 8, and 16 would really take, it was impossible for them to have a practical discussion upon Clause 2. Now, as it seemed to him—unfortunately he had not had the opportunity of being present at the debates, but he had followed them as they had appeared in the newspaper—if it were made perfectly clear what was to be the form of Clauses 3 and 4, and in a minor degree, 8 and 16, the discussion upon Clause 2 might be of the briefest kind. Clause 2 proceeded to enact the method by which Clause 1 should be carried out. Clause 1 having enacted that the term "public elementary schools" should no longer include non-provided schools, Clause 2 proceeded to provide what should be the method by which those schools were to be acquired, and it enabled the Local Education Authorities to acquire the schools, if they saw fit to do so, upon certain conditions. If it were not for the subsequent clauses, or if those clauses were in the form they would ultimately take, or if they had from the Government a clear and definite statement as to the views they held with regard to any alteration of those clauses, then Clause 2 would require very little discussion, but, in the absence of any such information from the Government and in the absence of any Amendments in their name showing what it was they proposed to do, it appeared to him, at all events, to be impossible to discuss Clause 2 without constantly having in their minds the effect which those clauses in the form they might assume when they were passed would have upon it. This clause, for instance, began by laying upon the local education authority the obligation to come to an arrangement with the local managers or trustees. If that arrangement was to be mutually satisfactory, or at all events reasonably fair, the two parties to it ought at the commencement of their operations to be on an equality, whereas, as a matter of fact, they would under this clause start on a manifest inequality. The education authority was already in a very much superior position in consequence of the legislation of 1902. By subsequent clauses of this Bill that position of superiority was rendered even more marked. And over and beyond the education authority there was the Commission, which, so far as they were able to judge, would be in an even superior position. Therefore, whether the arrangement between education authority and trustees or managers was likely to prove a fair one to the latter, must depend not upon Clause 2, but on Clauses 3, 4, 8, and 16. It was not for him to suggest what was the best course for the Government to take, but he had himself been responsible for the drafting and passing through the House of a great many contentious Bills. He did not suggest for a moment that the Government had deliberately arranged the clauses in order to mystify the Committee or to help themselves, nor did he suggest that the Bill was badly drafted. All he said was that, in the interests of business, if they would postpone this clause until subsequent clauses had assumed their definite and final form an immense amount of Parliamentary time would be saved. The clause contained only one condition which was made an imperative part of the arrangement between trustees and the education authority, and that consisted of the obligation on the local education authority to do all the repairs. That was a condition to the arrangement for which the advocates of voluntary schools cared least. The Minister for Education had taken him to task for saying that this obligation in regard to repairs was incredibly mean. He saw no reason to depart from that view, because to the voluntary schools this was not a matter of monetary consideration. It was not a question of whether the total cost of the upkeep of the schools was going to be great or small. The point was that they were asking the owners of these schools to surrender a sacred trust, and therefore they cared least of all for the one thing that was made clear in the Bill. Assuming that this clause and also Clauses 3, 4, 8, and 16 passed unaltered, what would be the effect? He would take the case of an ordinary country parish—a case that came within his own personal knowledge—in which twenty years ago there was an agitation in the district to establish a school board. A school board was established, and it decided to leave education to voluntary effort, and by voluntary subscriptions a school was established which was still in existence. In that parish—a large parish containing a good many Nonconformists—there was at present no difficulty or feeling of any kind, and if local option was to obtain he believed the people would vote for the continuation of the existing condition of things.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not understand the bearing of the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman on the Motion.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was arguing that if this clause remained as it was and Clause 4 was not made mandatory or generally applicable the result he had described would follow. Consequently until they knew what Clause 4 would be in its final form they could not profitably discuss the present clause.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The right hon. Gentleman is now coming near the limits of order, but in his previous argument he merely gave instances without showing how they applied to his arguments.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was anxious to keep within the limits of order. It was the limiting effects of Clause 4 which made it so extremely difficult to discuss Clause 2. Besides the case he had mentioned, he had also in mind that of a Roman Catholic school—an isolated school in a country district—in which both Protestants and Catholics were educated, and if they were to regard

Clause 2 as standing by itself, that school would come to an end or have to be continued in a different form. He understood that the Government had power, if they had the will, to say "no" to the proposal, to adhere to their own arrangement of the clauses, and to insist upon taking this clause first, but he did not believe it would save time. He had had considerable experience of carrying Bills through the House, and he ventured to say that if they were going to discuss a clause the whole effect of which was dependent upon subsequent clauses without those clauses being decided, they must, *ipso facto*, add to the time of their discussion and waste a considerable part of that time. Therefore he based his appeal to the Government on general grounds. If the Government would not listen to that appeal and proceeded with the Bill as they had arranged, he asked them at all events to give further information with regard to the subsequent clauses. Under Clause 2 the local education authority were entitled to take over the schools if they thought fit, and a part of the arrangement was to be certain facilities, but those facilities were left in the vaguest form.

*The CHAIRMAN: I think that is a question which ought not to be discussed till we reach the clause.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he had been to some trouble to try and grasp the full difficulties of the Bill, and he honestly believed that to approach a discussion of Clause 2 without fuller information as to the subsequent clauses would be to produce confusion. The Committee would be called upon to discuss Clause 2, which they on that side of the House did not itself oppose, but as to the effect of which, having regard to the clauses which followed, they could not judge until they had those subsequent clauses before them, or until they had a clearer statement from the Government as to their intentions. He did not, for the life of him, see how the debate was to be continued except with a considerable waste of Parliamentary time, and at the risk of repetition of arguments. He did not complain that hon. Gentlemen opposite should regard him as suspect, but he could assure them that he did not want to waste time by useless discussion. He was only trying to get information without which they could not possibly abbreviate the debate on Clause 2. He would venture to ask the Minister of Education whether he would, before they proceeded to the minute discussion of the clause, give them an answer to a few simple points.

*The CHAIRMAN: The right hon. Gentleman cannot possibly discuss other clauses now. I cannot allow a series of questions on other clauses. The hon. Gentleman is entitled to argue that this clause should be postponed, but he is not entitled to argue other clauses.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he had hoped to obtain from the Government some information which would help the Committee in the discussion, but it was quite evident that that course could not be pursued, and he therefore confined himself to urging the Government to postpone their clause and take those clauses which alone could reveal what were the risks involved, and what would be the result of the changes about to be made. The Committee were asked to discuss the clause in absolute ignorance. There had been statements of a contradictory character. They were told that certain clauses were mandatory, when it was totally different. Without knowing the real meaning of the subsequent clauses they could not tell what would be the effect of Clause 2. He could only ask the Government to give a more friendly consideration to a demand made in perfect good faith, and which had behind it a much stronger feeling than the Government realised, because, apart from politics, they felt that they were asking for information essential to the adequate discharge of their duty to the great majority of the children in the schools. He was sorry it was not possible to carry his arguments as far as he would have liked, but he hoped the Government would avail themselves of the powers they undoubtedly possessed, and give the Committee some of the information they required if they were adequately and in a business-like manner to discuss the clause.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 2 be postponed."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said he was sure the Committee were very glad to see the right hon. Gentleman back again and in such excellent committee form. He had heard that he was very anxious to postpone Clause 2 in order to get to Clause 3, but he noticed that when they got to Clause 3 the first Amendment stood in the name of the right hon. Gentleman, and was to postpone the consideration of the clause. When the Government framed the measure, he had no other course in his mind than the natural course; nothing was further from their thoughts than to prepare a number of clauses, and then arrange them in such a manner as to give the minimum amount of information upon them. Clause 2 followed naturally upon Clause 1. Clause 1 provided that on and after a date named a school should not receive either State or rate aid unless it was a provided school, and it followed from that that the local education authorities had to provide accommodation for children within their area in schools coming within that category. They must therefore either build schools answering to that category or acquire by some means existing buildings to fulfil the conditions of their being provided schools. They had to face the difficulty of having either to build or to acquire. Clause 2 enabled them to acquire. It was not a compulsory clause in any respect whatever, and its sole object was to enable the local authorities and the owners of such schools as the local authorities found it necessary to acquire or were desirous of acquiring to come to terms, to strike a bargain between them, and to put as few difficulties as possible in the way of an arrangement being arrived at. He could not himself see what Clauses 3 and 4 had to do with the nature and character of that bargain. It had to be struck, obviously, and it must be struck, having regard to the terms of Clause 10. Unless hon. Gentlemen opposite wished to see new buildings erected in all the parishes of the country, it was absolutely essential that there should be the freest hand given to both parties to come to some arrangement, and the only absolute condition that the Government had inserted in the clause was sub-section (a), as to which the right hon. Gentleman had spoken very lightly, but which he, for his part, thought should be one of the terms of the bargain. That was the only term the Government imposed; every other term was left to the parties to arrange between themselves; and he thought, therefore, that if any one was anxious to come to Clauses 3 and 4—no human being was more anxious than he was—the best way was to get rid of Clause 2. The Government could not consent to the postponement.

*MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said the right hon. Gentleman absolutely refused to give them any light whatever with regard to the principles or details of the Bill. He relied upon his huge majority, and refused to give them any information at all. Clause 1 affirmed the general principle of the extinction of the voluntary schools, and Clause 2 provided that the local authority might, by a voluntary arrangement with the owners, take over those schools. But this was not a new proposal. It could be done under Section 23 of the Act of 1870. He could not understand why Clause 2 was necessary at all. He assumed that the majority of the schools would not be taken over under a voluntary arrangement, because in many cases it would be impossible for owners of voluntary schools and the local education authority to come to terms. Then they must remember that many local education authorities had given out that they would refuse to give any facilities to the voluntary schools for religious instructions. Therefore, he considered that Clause 2 would be more or less a dead letter if it passed in its present form. Clause 8, as the Government must know, was unfair to the voluntary schools, and they had therefore put Clause 2 in the forefront, and had hidden away Clause 8 in the middle of the Bill to try and conceal from the people of the country the injustice of the Bill. Before they discussed Clause 2, they must have some information with regard to the very important question of rent.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member must take the Bill as it stood, and he could only argue on the Bill as it stood that Clause 2 should be postponed.

*MR. ASHLEY said the question was a matter which was very deeply felt by the people of Lancashire, and he thought anyone who saw the meeting of the

Erskine, David C.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir. Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Allan (Hereford, S.
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laildaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marnham, F. J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Grady, J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williamson, G. H. (Worcester)
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

THE CHAIRMAN ruled that the Amendment standing on the Paper in the name of the right hon. Member for Dover was out of order.†

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† The Amendment referred to was as follows:—

"In Clause 2, page 1, line 11, at beginning, to insert,—'(1) The parent of any child attending a public elementary school may require that religious instruction shall be given to his child during school hours for half-an-hour on five or any less number of days in each week, by any person selected by him and approved by the local education authority. And it shall be the duty of the local education authority to make or facliitate such arrangements as may be necessary for complying with any such request. Provided that the local education authority shall not withhold their approval because of the religious belief of any person so selected, and that, if their approval be withheld on any other ground, the parent may appeal against their decision to the Board of Education.' "

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) said that the purpose of the Amendment standing in his name, with subsequent consequential Amendments, was to determine the machinery by which the voluntary schools might be brought into the category of provided schools. There could be no doubt that every one of these voluntary schools should have the chance of being continued as a transferred voluntary school, if the owners or trustees wished it—always supposing that the requirements of the Board of Education as to the general conditions of the school and its structure were complied with. As the Bill stood, the local authorities throughout the country had the power to take over or to reject all the voluntary schools. He did not suppose that they would do the latter, on financial grounds. But it was always possible that hardships might be created here and there, if not on a large, possibly on a small scale, if the local authorities exercised their power to deprive the trustees on any terms of the continuance of their voluntary schools. If the liberty of bargaining was limited in this way, then the local authorities need not approach the owners of the voluntary schools, but might ignore them, and there would be no bargain at all. If that were so, then the voluntary schools which were desired in certain parts of the country where there was not a single Nonconformist might be superseded because the local authority was hostile to the voluntary system, or because it desired to possess its own schools. Or the local authority might approach the owners of the voluntary schools with an offer of such hard terms as could not be accepted. If there was no trust the whole matter would fall to the ground: and if there were a trust the Commission would come in and frame a scheme. He would wish to obviate that very possible hardship upon the inhabitants of various parts of the country, where voluntary schools were acceptable to the majority of the people, by requiring the local authority to take over the voluntary schools, always assuming that these were efficient. His Amendment did not impose any pecuniary liability on the local authority which was not at present imposed, for these schools were now maintained by them. He did not suggest that unfit schools should be taken over: but only such voluntary schools as were defined in the Act as public elementary schools such as were in receipt of Parliamentary grants from the Board of Education, and were therefore accepted as efficient. The Commission might come in very usefully for making schemes where there was a trust deed in accordance with which the voluntary schools might be taken over, but he should prefer to see the local authority and the owners of schools free to make their own terms. If they could not agree, the matter should be determined by the Board after holding a public inquiry, and it would then become one of public notoriety and the terms proposed by the local authority, and those put forward by the owners would be disclosed and public opinion could operate upon the transaction. The Bill, as it stood at present, gave the local authorities the power of obliterating the voluntary school system which was popular in many parts of the country. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Why?" and "It is cheap."] He did not think that cheapness was the consideration which prevailed throughout our educational system. He did not think it was the cheapness of our voluntary system which brought that recent demonstration from Lancashire. There were local authorities who, because they disliked the voluntary school system would endeavour to efface the schools. There were others who might from motives of economy say that where there were two schools there should henceforth be only one, whatever might be the hardship upon any parent who desired to have religious teaching of a definite kind such as was provided for in the subsequent clauses of the Bill. He regretted that they had not obtained an assurance such as they asked for many weeks ago, as to the extent of the facilities to be afforded by the Bill and the conditions under which they were to be given. They had had declarations from the President of the Board of Education and from the Chancellor of the Duchy on this question all in contradictory terms. This clause need not have been discussed to the extent to which it would be if the full policy of the Government had been disclosed, and if they had been told the policy of the Government in regard to the later clauses. They were at present to a certain extent in the dark unless it was understood that the facilities for religious teaching were to be secured in every area where voluntary schools existed, and the transferred voluntary school was to be allowed to continue to go on where it existed now. There should be some variety in our elementary school system in regard to the religious teaching provided, and they ought not to be all cast in one mould of religious teaching which was acceptable to hon. Members opposite. The wishes of the people in the district and the wishes of the owners of the schools should be so far considered that no voluntary school should be effaced under the provisions of the Bill. In using the words "voluntary school," he meant "transferred voluntary school," and wished to ensure that no voluntary school should lose the chance of being a transferred voluntary school and that every opportunity should be given to the owners of the school, to the population of the district and all parties interested, to enjoy the spiritual advantages of such definite religious teaching as might remain when Sections 3 and 4 had undergone that explanatory process they that had not yet received. He begged to move his Amendment, which with other consequential Amendments would make the clause read to the effect that a local education authority "shall" continue any existing voluntary school as a school provided by them, in cases where the owners of the schoolhouse desire that they should do so and "shall" make arrangements by agreement with owners of the schoolhouse of the school for obtaining such use of it as was required for carrying on a public elementary school, etc.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out the words 'for the purpose of continuing,' and insert the words 'shall continue.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed "That the words proposed to to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. BIRRELL said the hon. Baronet had explained his Amendment with extreme lucidity, and it amounted to this, that while the local authority was to be required to continue any existing voluntary school as a school provided by them in cases where the owners of the school so desired, the owners could retain any school under their own control if they wished to do so. When there was a difference as to the terms, then the Board of Education was to step in. But the Board of Education had then only to settle the terms and had no power to deprive the owners of the schoolhouse of their rights. All he had to say was that, in the first place, that was a very one-sided arrangement, because the owners of a school might require a local authority to take their school while there was no corresponding obligation upon the owners to transfer their school if they did not wish to do so. It was a one-sided arrangement which really upset the whole scheme of the Bill. Therefore, although he was very much obliged to the hon. Baronet for the very clear way in which he had explained the Amendment, he did not think the Government could possibly accept it. Let them take, for instance, the case of the owners of private schools; there was no sort of compulsion which bound them under the Amendment to transfer their schools to the local authority, but the local authority was to be under an obligation to acquire every existing voluntary school, however unsuitable it might be for their purpose, if the owners wished to part with it.

SIR PHILIP MAGNUS (London University) said he had an almost identical Amendment upon the Paper, and therefore wished to say a few words upon that now before the Committee. He very much regretted that the President of the Board of Education was unable to accept this proposal, as it would be a graceful concession. For his own part he must say, however, that now that Clause 1 had been passed, which determined the future position of elementary schools, and had been described as the backbone of the Bill, he thought their efforts should be directed to securing such Amendments as would make the Bill more generally acceptable to those who, while disapproving the principle underlying it, nevertheless desired to see a permanent settlement of the so-called religious difficulty. It must be plain to the Government that the Bill as it stood had aroused considerable opposition outside the House, among both the clergy and laymen, and that in its present form it was equally objectionable to Anglicans, Catholics, and Jews. For his own part, he regarded any measure which affected the education of the people as altogether outside the sphere of Party politics; and in supporting the Amendment now before the Committee he was actuated by no sectarian spirit, but only by the genuine desire to effect compromises which might lead to a peaceful settlement. Unless considerable alterations were made in the Bill that peaceful settlement would not be secured, and until they got rid of this constant discussion on religious teaching, it was useless to look for those improvements in elementary education which were so much needed. The time and attention of the Board were wholly occupied with questions of administration, and educational problems which press for solution are not even considered. He would appeal, therefore, to the President of the Board of Education to accept the Amendment. Unless it was accepted, Clauses 3 and 4 would be illusory. They would be nothing more than the mere sham which no one, he was sure, would regret more than the President himself. Let them look at what it meant. Its object was to make Clause 2 mandatory, to take it out of the power of the local authority to refuse to take over on reasonable terms a school which the Board of Education had pronounced efficient both as regards constructive details and equipment. Cases might easily arise—indeed, he had one such a case in his mind—where a small denominational school now in receipt of State aid and grants from the rates was not far distant from efficient county schools with accommodation to spare. The local authority, on being asked to take over such a school, might in the interest of the ratepayers decide to distribute the children among the neighbouring schools. In such a case the school would be entirely lost to the community, and so far as that school was concerned Clause 4 might be inoperative. The community would have no opportunity of taking advantage of the extended facilities provided under that clause, for the school would cease to exist. The Amendment was intended to prevent this. Its object was to put into the clause of the Bill what they had reason to believe was its intention. During these discussions they had heard a great deal about the "good intentions" of the Bill. All they asked was that those intentions should be embodied in its clauses. The object of the Amendment was to put it out of the power of the local education authority to refuse to transfer a school if required to do so. It was not for a moment suggested that the local authority should take over any school which was not efficient. If any school was required now they could only conclude that that school would still be required under this Bill. What was suggested was that if Clauses 3 and 4 meant anything at all the voluntary schools which existed now should have the right to claim that the local authority should transfer them. When the Jewish deputation, which had been referred to, waited on the President of the Board of Education, it was Mr. Montifiore who said—

> "Hence it is that we ask that if our schools are pronounced by the Board of Education to be structurally suitable, that the local authority should be obliged to take them over."

And it was Mr. Jessel who pointedly said—

> "The suggestion we venture respectfully to put before you is that we ought not to be subjected to the chance of finding an anti-religious local authority in power who would refuse to take over one of the schools, because they were opposed to the four-fifths clause, or were in fact opposed to the denominational teaching altogether."

It was quite clear that if provided schools only were to receive State aid or grants from the local authority the owners of the voluntary schools ought to have the right to claim that their schools should be continued with a view to the facilities to be granted under Clause 4. The right hon. Gentleman the Minister of Education, in answer to that deputation, said—

> "It is obligatary on the local authority to ascertain the facts. But having established the facts, it is true that as the Bill is framed there is no obligation upon the local authority to go further. It may, if so minded, disregard the intention of the statute."

This was very unsatisfactory. He trusted that the right hon. Gentleman, notwithstanding what he had already said, might be induced to accept this Amendment as his first concession. Another argument in its favour was that by taking it out of the power of the local authority to refuse to transfer a thoroughly efficient school, they would to a great extent prevent the introduction of the religious question into the municipal elections. It was quite certain that candidates in municipal elections would be asked whether or not they were favourable to the transfer of voluntary schools. Therefore he hoped the Amendment would be accepted.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said he was afraid the hon. Member who moved the Amendment did not quite understand what it did. The Amendment said that the local authority must take over the buildings if the managers of the school wished, if the school was pronounced efficient by the Board of Education. The Board of Education was to be the determining factor. What would happen in that case? The London County Council in the city of London alone would be compelled to take over every voluntary school building which the managers demanded they should take over if the Board of Education agreed that it ought to be taken over. That was the meaning of the Amendment as he understood it. Very well. When the London County Council became the local education authority it ordered an inquiry into the condition of the voluntary schools that it might be obliged to take over. Twenty-nine of them were scheduled as unsuitable for the purposes of education. He would read the statements with regard to only four. The first was a school at Deptford—

> "The infants' department is on the first floor, but this is really a concert hall with a stage, procenium, and retiring rooms at one end; the approach is by two open, awkward stone staircases meeting in a common landing in centre, and the building cannot be regarded as safe against a fire occurring."

That was a building the authority was asked to take over. The school had been passed by the Board of Education as efficient. The next was a school at Greenwich—

> "The approach to the girls' (first floor) is by a winding stone stair which is also the only exit from this department; the children in the end room have to travel the whole length of the school to reach this staircase, which is in a dangerous condition and would prove disastrous in case of fire."

A school at Hampstead was described as—

> "Absolutely unsuitable. Cannot be recognised in any shape or form. The premises would be positively dangerous to children in case of fire."

Finally, there was a school at Walworth, which was described as—

> "A very dilapidated building erected about 100 years ago as a chapel. It is inconvenient, badly lighted, and with bad sanitary arrangements."

With regard to all those schools—hon. Members might say there were only twenty-nine altogether—they were all efficient according to the Board of Education. What the Board of Education had been doing not to have shut those schools up long ago he did not know. He hoped there would be some alteration in the Board of Education now. Four hundred and thirty-eight schools were examined by the county council inspector, all of which, according to the Board of Education, were efficient. Of those schools sixty-four were passed as good, ninety-two were scheduled as unsuitable and in all 229 departments of schools were condemned right out as absolutely unsuitable for the education of children. So far as sanitation was concerned, the result of the test of the drains of the whole of the voluntary schools showed that in 342, or 78 per cent. the drains were unsatisfactory. Eighty-nine failed under the water test, eighteen under the smoke test, and 318 under both. Moreover, as many people knew, the London County Council was in many cases met by an absolute refusal when they asked permission to test. Were the London County Council to be compelled to take those buildings over from the managers? It was perfectly grotesque. But there was another phase which had not been dealt with, except incidentally. The hon. Member for London University thought it would be an unfair thing to merge these schools into one great school.

*SIR PHILIP MAGNUS: Under the circumstances suggested by the hon. Member for North Camberwell those schools would have no opportunity of taking advantage of the facilities under Clause 4.

DR. MACNAMARA said Clause 4 did not arise upon this question. Many of these denominational schools in the inner parts of our cities were built many years ago when the population surrounded them. The population had now gone to the suburbs, but the schools remained and stood for large accommodation and no doubt the managers would drive a very hard bargain. In Pimlico there was a school with accommodation for 928 children, and on the roll there were only 228. Were they to compel the County Council to rent that school on the basis of its accommodation? In St. Bride's a school had accommodation for 146, and there were eighteen on the rolls. In Smithfield there was a school with accommodation for 335 children, and only 133 on the rolls. He could give a number of other instances in the inner parts of London and other great cities in which the population had gone away and the authorities had been compelled to build schools in the outer parts. It would be perfectly monstrous to call upon the local authority to rent these schools at the figure of their accommodation, when the number of pupils actually in attendance was so small. When were they going to have some regard for the rates? It was not often that he posed as the friend of the downtrodden ratepayer, but here was certainly an opportunity. They could at any time transfer 25,000 children in London from the denominational schools to the council schools and effect a thoroughly good piece of educational work besides economising the public money. The proposition to compel local authorities to take over buildings which were confessedly ill-adapted and dilapidated was perfectly grotesque, and could not be entertained for a moment by a Government anxious to carry out a sound and reasonable scheme of education.

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) said the position of the local authority under the Bill was that they could offer to take over a schoolhouse either at a nominal rent or without paying any rent and without giving any facilities for religious instruction. If that were refused by the owners, as it would be in most cases, there arose an option, not to the owners of the schoolhouse, but to the local education authority, either to apply for a scheme under which the schoolhouse could be made over to them or to say to the owners, "Very well, we do not want your school. You can keep it yourselves, we will build a school of our own." The effect would be that a schoolhouse which had been built under Parliamentary encouragement and sanction for the purpose of a public elementary school and was suitable for no other purpose, would be thrown upon the hands of the owners, who would have to sell it to the housebreaker at bricks and mortar value. He had never read anything more unfair or one-sided. Parliament had for thirty-six years past, and indeed for very much longer, encouraged the building of voluntary schools, and many millions had been spent on that object. Parliament was now making a change in the system, not because the schools were inefficient, but for public reasons, and surely it was not unfair to ask that the schools which had been built under Parliamentary sanction should be taken over if the owners desired it. It appeared to him to be only common justice to take them over, subject, of course, to reasonable terms being arranged. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had said that some of the schools were not in proper order. He himself knew a good many, and he would not say they were all in perfectly good order, but he saw the hon. Member for Exeter in the House, and he was, he believed, to some extent responsible for a great number of these schools being certified as efficient.

SIR G. KEKEWICH (Exeter): I think the Minister is responsible.

*MR. CAVE said he would accept that. What he was going to say was that, of course, if there were defects in the structure of a school there was a very simple remedy. It could be made a term of the agreement that the school should be put into proper order by the owners, or the local authority or the Board of Education could take those defects into account in fixing the rent or price. It was the easiest thing in the world, and was an answer, he thought, to the whole argument of the hon. Member for North Camberwell. Then the hon. Gentleman said—

> "Oh, but if this Amendment is carried, the local authority would have to take over every school at a rent to be fixed according to the amount of accommodation in the school."

The Amendment left it entirely open for terms to be fixed by agreement with the local authority, failing which the Board of Education would fix the amount. Of course, if the accommodation were in excess of what was required by the local education authority, they would probably take that into account. All the hon. Gentleman's arguments might be met by some amendment to the Amendment. All that they were now asking for was that Parliament should accept what he thought was a fair, reasonable, and honest principle.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) said he differed from many of the premises of the hon. Member for Camberwell and from all his conclusions, but at least the hon. Member would allow him to thank him for having given serious attention to the Amendment moved by the hon. Baronet. The President of the Board of Education had dismissed it in a very summary fashion. The fact that thousands of these schools belonging to all denominations and scattered all over the country had not only been in existence for many years, but had been deliberately encouraged by the State, entitled the Amendment to a sympathetic reception. He thought the proposal of his hon. friend was less open to the charge of one-sidedness than the provision in the Bill. As the Bill stood, the local education authority was at liberty to enter into an arrangement, and when they came to consider the conditions mentioned in a subsequent clause which would be put into operation if the local education authority did not voluntarily enter into an agreement, then one-sidedness was a term of reproach applicable not to the Amendment but to the proposals of the Bill itself. As drafted this Amendment only applied to existing efficient schools, and he did not see why they should not be taken over. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had stated that it would be economy on the part of the local authorities to shut up a number of those schools, and that corresponded to the threat that had been repeated by the President of the Board of Education that the credit of this country had not fallen so low as to make it impossible to raise sufficient money by loan to build all the new schools that were required. If it was economy, why not buy the schools? He had not with him the particulars of those twenty-nine schools in the London area which had been referred to by the hon. Member for North Camberwell, but he thought many Metropolitan Members would agree with him when he said that the Inspector's Report was very much discounted by the local sanitary authorities, who considered it overdrawn and exaggerated for purely political purposes. Many of those schools were now in process of being brought up to the required standard. A case had been mentioned of a school where there was danger from fire, but that danger was far greater in those lofty palaces built by the local education authorities than in the humble old-fashioned schools which were generally only two-storey buildings. He agreed that there were both good and bad schools, and they occurred not only amongst the voluntary group, but also amongst Board schools; but that was no reason why the local authority should not take the schools over and incorporate them under the new system. He thought that the conditions under Clause 8 would be more than adequate to enable the local authority to make terms. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had said that it would be much cheaper to wipe these schools out of existence, and build new schools to accommodate the displaced children. That might be so, but then there would arise the grotesque feature of introducing religious strife into local politics, and the local education authority might be tempted to refuse to act under Clause 2 as they were almost invited to, and come to no bargain at all with owners of voluntary schools. If that was going to be the policy of the local education authority the immediate result would be to throw out of employment thousands and tens of thousands of teachers in voluntary schools, who, under Clause 7, would have no compensation except the ridiculous payment of one year's contribution to the superannuation fund.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said the Minister for Education, in his answer to the Jewish deputation, used words which had caused considerable alarm. The right hon. Gentleman said that under the Bill it would be open to the local education authorities to set at defiance the intention of the Act. He thought that was a very unusual statement which required an explanation. Amendments ought to be introduced which would give to minorities some assurance, or at least some ground for hope, that the protection promised would really be afforded. It had been said that under Clause 2 the bargain which the local authority and the owners of denominational schools were at liberty to enter into was an absolutely free one in every particular. Was that a true statement?

In his opinion, it was a singularly inaccurate statement. Was the President of the Board of Education prepared to put into this Bill words that would make his statement accurate? At the beginning of Clause 3 it was laid down that certain things might be carried out affording facilities for religious instruction of a certain character. They were very strictly limited. Supposing the local authority desired in the case of a bargain with a voluntary school to give as part of the contract those facilities in Clause 4, to abrogate the intolerable conditions of Clause 6, and to make the provision that there should be the fullest facilities for religious instruction in school hours by the teachers of the schools taken over, would it be free to make such a bargain? [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] The local authority could not make any such bargain. There could be no manner of doubt that many of the local education authorities, if they were free under this Act, would, as a condition of taking over voluntary schools, give them all the facilities of Clause 4; and even go beyond that, and provide that the teaching should be within school hours, that being the only effective condition which would retain any form of religious teaching in the schools of the country. He wished to tell hon. Members on the Ministerial side that by supporting Clause 6 they were hunting the Bible out of the schools, and the freedom which was claimed for the Act was fettered and confined in regard to those very matters to which denominational schools attached the highest importance. He knew that Sub-section (a) put upon the local authority the duty of maintaining the schools in good condition and of making improvements, and to that he quite agreed; but he attached greater importance to the liberty of teaching, and the maintenance of the purpose for which the denominational schools were founded. Upon that subject the local authorities were cribbed, cabined, and confined within the narrowest possible limits, and therefore the argument used upon this point fell to the ground. He was not in favour of local option on this great question; the whole principle was against local option; but what he did complain of was that the limitations put upon the local authorities were one-sided, unjust, and unfair. The speech of the hon. Member for North Camberwell was, to his mind, a sinister one. He hoped the hon. Member would forgive him for saying so. He recognised in him a fair-minded opponent, who had shown himself not unjust according to his lights and knowledge. His speech pointed to a wholesale refusal on the part of the local education authorities to recognise vast sections of voluntary schools. It was plain that that was the deliberate intention, purpose, and even anticipation on the part of the local authorities, and that the effect of the clause would be instantly to obliterate and destroy an enormous proportion of voluntary schools on some cruel pretext such as that the drains were out of order or that the buildings were not fit for the purpose. [Laughter.] Some hon. Members laughed, but did they imagine it was a pleasure for the poor Catholic parents of the country to see their children going to crowded and sometimes insanitary schools—poor, miserable schools compared with the palaces offered by the Board of Education? They consented to their children going to these schools and paid their pennies and sixpences to maintain the schools for conscience sake; and these circumstances ought to appeal to the generosity of men who called themselves Liberals. Was it just, was it wise, was it generous to take the results of their poverty, when that poverty had inflicted real suffering, mortification, and humiliation for conscience sake, and make that an excuse for denying them the modifications and concessions which they demanded? The Minister for Education told a Jewish deputation that the intention was that these schools should go on as before, but he did not mention the cruel wrong and mean device that would be resorted to to rob them of their schools. It was plain that under the clause as it stood all kinds of excuses could be put forward where a school was not wanted in a locality. He fully admitted that it would be wrong to have an Amendment giving a one-sided compulsion to owners of voluntary schools to force local authorities to take their schools, no matter what reasons there were on the other side: that would be unreasonable; and he would vote for a provision giving some check to the Board of Education. Every argument of the hon. Member for North Camberwell would be fully met by a provision requiring the fiat of the Board of Education wherever the local education authorities objected to taking over schools. That was not what they were afraid of. What they were afraid of were cases where local authorities approached the question with a bias against denominational schools, and would use the unlimited discretion given to them under this clause to boycott and starve out such schools either by redistributing the children in other schools or by proceeding to build new schools at the expense of the rates. In this way they would be able completely to defeat the intention of the Bill and to obliterate and destroy the denominational schools in their district. He was no irreconcilable enemy of the Bill, but he desired it so amended that those who spoke for voluntary schools could frankly accept and even support it. It was high time that warning was given to the Liberal Party. If they left denominational schools to the mercy of local authorities they would be brought face to face with a most horrible situation, from his point of view. They would drag their Government into a campaign of persecution and even imprisonment against Catholic parents. If they threw the reins loose on the neck of every local authority they would leave it in the power of the local authorities to drag them along a path which would compel the Government to abandon one after another the great principles which were the life of their Party.

Mr. BIRRELL said he was sorry if the language which he employed was capable of the interpretation which had been put upon it. When he spoke of the freedom which parties enjoyed under Clause 2 he was thinking entirely of that clause, and not of the religious facilities to be given under Clause 3 or Clause 4. What he meant to imply was that the object of the Government in framing Clause 2 in the way they had done was to leave to the parties the making of the business arrangement with respect to the voluntary schools which would be transferred to the local authority—the arrangements indicated in Sub-section (a)—and to leave them at liberty to make what bargain suited best the necessities of the locality. He certainly did not mean that the question of facilities, according to the extent and according to the guarantee which the Act would afford, would not enter into the mind of the parties when they came

to make the bargain contemplated by Clause 2. When he formerly addressed the Committee he was specially thinking of the leasing of premises, and business arrangements of that kind; he was not thinking of what was a most important point, namely, the religious facilities accorded by subsequent sections at which they had not yet arrived. The hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment did not wish the local authority to have any option in the matter at all; he wished the local authority to be bound to acquire any premises which any owner chose to offer. That was an Amendment which it was impossible for the Government to accept in the terms proposed, namely, that they should impose on the local authority the obligation of taking over the schools. He did not share the feeling of the hon. Member for East Mayo, who seemed to think that the local authorities would be animated by a passionate and most bigoted desire to get rid of the voluntary schools within their districts.

Mr. DILLON: I am afraid some would.

Mr. BIRRELL said that when they were dealing with human nature it was always desirable to put in some saving clause of that kind. He did contemplate the possibility to which the hon. Member referred. He had contemplated the possibility of local authorities being pig-headed, but he honestly believed that the history of local administration in this country tended to show that, when any body of men—elected for three years or so—behaved in a manner justifying such a harsh epithet, they paid the penalty as all majorities, however composed, would who acted in such a way. The majority would be judged by the country at large, and not by a minority who felt themselves affronted by being in that position. He believed the local authorities as a whole would be animated by a desire to stand well with their constituents, and their constituents were animated by a desire for economy. To suppose that a policy which would sweep out of existence admirable schools, now full of children receiving an education which met with the support of the Board of Education and earning the full grants which the Board gave, would be likely to be adopted by any public body out of a feeling of universal hostility to such schools was, he thought, unreasonable. He entirely agreed that, when the Committee reached Clause 4, if it could be shown that that clause did not properly carry out its obvious intention, it ought to be strengthened. But it was not the business of the Committee at that moment to assume that the clause was not sufficient for its purpose. He was anxious to listen with the friendliest possible mind to all suggestions intended to secure to the schools contemplated by that clause the protection to which they were entitled. But to accept this particular Amendment would put on local authorities an intolerable burden which they would have every right to resent and which would not have the soothing effects which, he hoped, might result from the passing of the Bill into law. He hoped the provisions of this clause might be so worked out in practice that a large number of schools which were doing excellent work would be transferred to the local authority, with the facilities provided by subsequent clauses. It would, however, be impossible to throw on the local authority the obligation of taking over all these schools, and therefore he could not accept the Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he had been greatly struck both on that and on previous occasions with the anxiety of the right hon. Gentleman to explain that there would be Amendments to the clauses in the Bill which would make it more satisfactory to his friends; but the hon. Member for East Mayo had just explained how few of the Amendments promised were satisfactory to the hon. Members from Ireland. It was in vain for the right hon. Gentleman to say that he did not desire to interfere with the voluntary schools. The hon. Gentlemen from Ireland, and even members of the Church of England, had the same claim to denominational teaching which the present Bill would not secure. He asked the Government to explain their views as to what should be the nature of their bargaining with the trustees of voluntary schools. The Government had refused the invitation of the right hon. Gentleman to explain their position on the matter, and now they did not know where they were. What they wanted to get was a general statement from the Government. Under Clause 2, taken by itself or in connection with other clauses, there was no obligation on the local authority to take over voluntary schools. If a local authority refused to take them over the possibility of dealing with denominational education in that area would be extinguished. Clauses 3 and 4 would then be absolutely waste paper. The theory of the Government in introducing the Bill was that, not merely was there to be an opening in our educational system for denominational teaching, but that the local authority should be required to give such an opening. What was there in the Bill to compel an education authority to take over any voluntary schools at all? If an authority did not take them over, then the promise that there should be room for denominational teaching in our system vanished altogether. There was nothing in the Bill to prevent an authority from extinguishing every Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Wesleyan school in its area. What was the safeguard which the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education thought existed and was sufficient to obviate the possibility of the danger which everyone seemed to admit—on paper, at any rate? He said, of course, that they were all animated with a love of economy, and that every local authority was so animated. Well, as a ratepayer he could wish that such a thing were more true than he feared it was. The right hon. Gentleman had told them that the members of a local authority which wished to be extravagant would only hold office for three years, and at the end of that time the vengeance of their constituents would fall upon them, and they would all be turned out, another set of gentlemen of more economical minds being put in their places. That was all right, but during those three years the community would have been robbed, and the whole future of denominational teaching in the district risked, for there was the chance at the end of the three years that financial difficulties would render the authority incapable of reinstating existing conditions. The Roman Catholic and Anglican schools might be destroyed. He did not think the Government seriously believed they could maintain the position they had taken up; whilst they had pledged themselves by their speeches to maintain the privileges for religious teaching under Clauses 3 and 4 they were going to destroy that permission by the provisions of Clause 2. That those provisions were or might be destroyed under Clause 2 the Minister of Education had not pretended to deny. He earnestly begged a plain answer from the Government. The right hon. Gentleman had given no hint as to how he intended to carry out the pledges he had given. When the right hon. Gentleman got up and said that all he desired was that they should not put a limitation on the local education authority which they did not put on the owners of voluntary schools, did he forget that by his own Bill three Gentlemen were to have power in all cases where there were trusts to require the school to come under the local authority ?

MR. BIRRELL said that the powers these three gentlemen, whoever they might be, would excercise would be legal powers. It would be their business to consider whether, having regard to the offer made by the local education authority to take over a school on certain terms as to facilities or otherwise, that was the best way possible of fulfilling the trust; and if they were of opinion that there was some better way which would more accord with the trust, they would be bound to say, "We cannot sanction the transfer to the local education authority, because that would not be the best way of carrying out the trust." They would have to administer the doctrine of *cyprès.* The law had come in and prevented the school from being carried on as a public elementary school. Therefore the Commission must consider what was the best and safest way of carrying on the educational trust; and where they thought that some other mode was nearer to the original trust than a transfer, they would be bound to say, "We cannot sanction the transfer, because some other scheme recommends itself to our mind as being nearer to the original trust."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that explanation made the case much worse than it was before. On his side of the House they had pointed out that there was no obligation on the local education authority to take over voluntary schools at all on any terms, and the right hon. Gentleman explained what Clause 8 did. Clause 8 made it far worse, because, even if an education authority proposed to take over a voluntary school, these three gentlemen might step in and say, "The education authority is anxious to take over the school, the trustees are anxious to hand it over; we think there is some other possible way of carrying out the trust." And so with a willing local authority and willing trustees——

MR. BIRRELL: In those circumstances the bargain would be struck and the matter would not come before the Commission.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether the right hon. Gentleman meant to say that, in spite of these three gentlemen and anything else in the Bill, a bargain might be struck which broke the terms of the trust and threw the doctrine of *cyprès* to the winds. How much better the Committee would be situated if they really knew what the Government scheme was. However interesting and important the right hon. Gentleman's interruption might be, it did not help them in the least so far as the particular difficulty emphasised by the hon. Member for East Mayo and other hon. Members was concerned. What security did the Government mean to hold out that there should be the power of making a bargain at all ? If schools were not taken over under Clause 2, Clauses 3 and 4 became illusory. What security was there that they must be taken over under Clause 2 ? Did the Government maintain the position that while they had pledged themselves to maintain the privileges under Clause 3 and Clause 4 for religious education, they were going to destroy that promise by the provisions of Clause 2 ? That those privileges might be so destroyed the right hon. Gentleman did not pretend to deny. He himself did not entertain the expectation that there might not be regions in the country in which the local authority would exercise to the full the licence given them by the Bill and deprive the owners of voluntary schools and those interested in the denominational teaching of all the promised privileges. Whatever the answer might be a plain answer should be given to the question by what machinery did the right hon. Gentleman mean to avoid the manifest peril which threatened the interests of denominational education? The Government had made promises in favour of denominational education. What were the safeguards by which those interests were to be maintained?

MR. BIRRELL said he had already stated more than once that the Bill did not impose any obligation on the local education authority to acquire any existing voluntary schools. The local authority had an option or a choice, and was not bound to acquire any existing voluntary schools within its area unless it was so minded. If that was so, he could not give any other answer to the right hon. Gentleman than that he had already given—namely, that the Government did not anticipate, in consequence of that choice or option, any disposition of any local education authority whatsoever to refuse to acquire existing voluntary schools under Clause 2; in fact, the only hope of the Government was that the owners and trustees would respond to the request that would be made by the local education authority in the same spirit in which the offer to acquire the schools was made.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) said only one answer to the Amendment had been advanced, and that came from the hon. Member for North Camberwell, who in his speech had pointed out what certainly was a real defect in the Amendment, because he said that under it a large number of schools which were insanitary and inefficient might be taken over by the local authority, and the Board of Education might not have the authority or desire to condemn those schools and prevent their being taken over. That was a very logical argument and one with the spirit of which he agreed. He would be the last person in the world to say that the local education authority should take over an insanitary school, but he believed that under this Amendment the Board of Education had perfect authority to prevent such a thing occurring. The Government, moreover, had given no answer in reply to the question as to what would happen to the children if these schools were so inefficient and insanitary that they could not be taken over. He wanted to know what would happen to them as regarded their opportunities for definite religious teaching, supposing these schools were not taken over by the local education authority. They had heard a great deal about the buildings, the drains and so forth, but he wanted to know what the Government were going to do for the children. They had agreed that parents who wished their children to have something more definite than Cowper-Temple teaching were to have it under certain circumstances. In what consisted the difference between the rights of the children who attended schools where, say, the drainage was bad, and the rights of the children who attended schools in a more sanitary state? He was not dealing with the report of the London County Council in this matter, because he was aware that the whole action of the London County Council with regard to education had been carried out under the strongest political bias. [Cries of "Oh."] Well, that was the statement he made, and he did not think anybody could contradict it. He thought that that was one of the reasons why the hon. Member for North Camberwell would like to see the control of education taken out of the hands of the London County Council. He agreed that there were a certain number of schools which ought not to be carried on any longer, but what concerned him was what was going to happen to the children in them. Were they going to be disfranchised, so to speak, and deprived of the rights which every child was supposed to have under this Bill? Surely the children in the large towns were entitled to more consideration because their parents could have sent them to other schools if they had not believed in the importance of having definite religious teaching in their own faith. He thought they were entitled to an answer from the right hon. Gentleman to this definite question. Was this clause going to shut out from any rights under Clauses 3 and 4 the children who had hitherto been attending voluntary schools which, owing to insanitary conditions, would not be taken over by the local authority?

COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) said he thought this clause ought to be a good deal more explained, and, if possible, altered in the direction aimed at by the Amendment which had been put forward. Many schools under this clause might be refused because they were considered to be insanitary, although the trustees had done their best to fall in with the very unreasonable recommendations of the County Council. He knew of schools which had ordinary boarded floors better than those which existed in a good many houses, and yet they had been condemned and the owners obliged to put in block floors simply because it was the fad of the local authority. They were taking over these schools compulsorily. Clause 1 put every one of these schools under the power of the local authority, and if they were taken over compulsorily the local authority ought to take over the liability as well. He should certainly vote for the Amendment.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) said that, the Government being anxious that no injustice should be done, some of their supporters wondered why it should be left to the local authority to decide a matter of principle which Parliament was ready to decide, and on which it was practically unanimous. It seemed to him an entirely novel doctrine that Parliament, having approved a principle, should leave it to a subsidiary authority to apply the principle or not as it pleased. He appealed to the Minister for Education to consider whether, if he could not accept the Amendment, he could meet the objections urged in another way, as, for example, by giving an appeal to the Board of Education where the local authority behaved, as the right hon. Gentleman had admitted that some local authorities might behave, in a pig-headed manner. Surely this was a most reasonable request. If subsidiary authorities were going to be pig-headed, surely the paramount authority ought to step in. He suggested to the President of the Board of Education that if he could not see his way to accept the Amendment he should at least give the Committee some indication that a right of appeal would be given to the Board of Education.

MR. WALTER LONG said he hoped the Minister for Education would listen to the appeal which had been made to him from an hon. Member sitting on the Ministerial side of the House. This discussion might be considerably shortened if they could get some definite explanation of what the policy of the Government really was. It was now left optional with the local authority as to whether they would take over the schools or not. Under the clause as it stood cases of bitter hardship would occur in rural districts, and give rise to resentment and outcry of which the Government had no conception. They would not get rid of the passive resister. He would be left under Clause 4, and a new passive resister would be created under this clause, who would be more indignant and more difficult to deal with than his predecessor. That predecessor was indignant because public money was being taken for a cause of which he did not approve. Now they were going to have schools, such as one which he had in his mind that had been in existence for seventy years, not taken over. ["Why not?"] He was assuming that it would not be taken over if this Amendment or some equivalent was not accepted. If he was to be taken to task for assuming that a local authority might not take over a school, why did they not accept the Amendment? Why refuse the moderate request of the hon Member for the Abercromby Division? Were they going to leave this question where it was? Did they believe that this was likely to be a peaceful solution of the question? Did the Government imagine that the Opposition did not represent something more on this subject than a mere remnant of the voluntary schools movement? This difficulty would reappear during the debates on subsequent clauses unless the Government were prepared to make a definite statement now. Unless the Committee were treated fairly in this matter the question would have to be raised again. If the Government could not do the whole, would they do a part? Would the Government meet them in some way? Would they give them an appeal? Personally he would have asked for something more. He would have asked that if the Amendment of the hon. Baronet were open to all the objections urged by the hon. Member for North Camberwell, it should be modified so as to give the existing voluntary schools a sure hope that against their continued existence no prejudice and no partisanship would be allowed to prevail. He believed in the local authorities and that they were to be trusted; but if Parliament was not prepared on a great question of principle such as this to lay down definite and clear action, but was going to be swayed by emotions, whatever their origin was, it was no insult to the local authorities to say that where Parliament erred they were likely to err, and that where Parliament was afraid to come to a decision they would be afraid to come to a decision. Where Parliament had, as he believed, so predominant a view in one direction, it had no right to leave the matter to local option. How could we have a system of national education if it was to be conducted on one set of lines in one quarter and on a totally different set of lines in another quarter? Would it not be, in the words of the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for North Louth, religious education by permission of the County Council? Was that according to the wishes of the House or the views expressed by the Minister for Education? It would be going in the teeth of everything said by the Government if the local authorities were to take a line which was hostile to the voluntary schools as a whole. That being so, and in the face of the debate being overwhelmingly on one side, he asked the Government to do something more than meet them with kind words and generous sympathy, and to put in the Bill, either now or later, some words that would give not merely the assurance of a friend, but the definite assurance of an Act of Parliament, that justice, at all events, would be done to the voluntary schools.

MR. WALLACE (Perth) said he had hoped that they would postpone consideration of this question until Clauses 3 and 4 had been considered, but he now realised that the important question which was in the minds of all did arise in connection with this clause. He could see that under its operation it would be perfectly possible for every denominational school in the country to be closed. He was not discussing whether that was a good or a bad thing. He admitted candidly that he was a supporter of undenominational education, but he was equally one of those who never insisted upon his own view if he thought it would act unfairly against other people. And he did think that if they were to pass this clause as it stood they would be inflicting a great injustice upon the denominations who had spent so much and made such sacrifices for their schools. He was not quite sure that in the particular form in which it appeared he could support absolutely the Amendment of the hon. Baronet, which would make the clause read something in this way—

"A local education authority shall continue any existing voluntary school with the consent of the Board of Education."

It entirely depended upon that. Let there be no misunderstanding. They were all anxious to arrive at a settlement of the matter. What he desired was that if a voluntary school existing to-day was in a fit condition to be carried on, the authority should be compelled to carry it on. He spoke perfectly frankly, and it was just as well that they should do so at the present moment. If they were going to attempt to carry on the two systems of schools, and to allow denominational schools to exist then an Amendment of something of this nature was necessary. If they were not going to do that, let them say so boldly and frankly. He was in favour of the undenominational system. If the people of the country would accept it, which was a large order, he would like to see it universal. But he was not going to obtain by any subterfuge that which in his heart he earnestly desired. He recognised the rights of other denominations and that this Bill professed to allow the denominational schools to be carried on. If that were so, let them make it a reality. It was necessary now that they should clearly understand where they were. He did not know what was going to happen with regard to Clauses 3 and 4, but he realised that if they passed this clause they would put into the hands of the enemies of denominational schools the power to close them all through the country, and he would never consent to that. He did ask his right hon. friend to accept this suggestion. He was perfectly well aware that he was giving expression to views which were not shared by many hon. Members on his side. He was not speaking for any one but himself. He was speaking on behalf of what he believed to be honesty. They had put forth the view that they were going to allow these schools to continue and to give them a fair opportunity to continue. He therefore protested that it would be grossly unfair under those circumstances, in spite of the suitability of the schools, to allow them to be closed. He consequently asked his right hon. friend to do something to meet the views of those who were anxious to reconcile the existence of both kinds of schools.

MR. BIRRELL said his hon. friend proposed that the local authority should be obliged to acquire a voluntary school. Did he also propose that the owners of a voluntary school should be obliged to transfer it to the local authority?

MR. GUEST (Cardiff District) thought this was a real difficulty, and that the Minister for Education felt it was one. If the fears expressed by Members of the Opposition were realised, in so far as they were realised the whole intention of the Bill would be defeated and all the elaborate compromise of Clauses 3 and 4, which he approved of, fell to the ground. He did not believe it was possible to make it obligatory on the local authority to take over the voluntary schools, for this reason. If they were obliged to take over the schools the bargain which they would make with the owners must, of necessity, be a very one-sided affair. If the local authority were under an obligation, and the other side were free to do as they liked, it was clear the two parties did not enter into the bargain on the same terms. It was obvious, therefore, that that solution would not do. The Minister for Education relied upon two things—the reasonableness and fair-mindedness of the local authorities, and their love of economy. He had admitted that it might possibly happen that some local education authorities would be unreasonable. It was no consolation to the Catholics, for instance, to feel that if the local authority was pig-headed, and their chance of obtaining the facilities under Clauses 3 and 4 was destroyed, theirs was an exceptional case. This was one of the inducements that the Minister of Education relied upon. After all, would it be so much cheaper to hire the schools than to build new schools? In view of that, did not the argument of economy rather fall to the ground? Many local authorities which really wished to stamp out denominational teaching in their areas would plausibly argue that it was just as cheap to build new schools as to hire existing schools. He did not think there was much in the economy inducement at present. When the right hon. Gentleman introduced the Bill he was careful not to say exactly how the million he referred to was going to be expended. He thought the right hon. Gentleman was going to keep that up his sleeve in order to apply it as emergency might arise, to carry out in the best way the intention of the Committee. The right hon. Gentleman had a million of money at his disposal. If it was impossible to apply and distribute that money to strengthen economy inducements—which the right hon. Gentleman believed had such weight, and ought to have such weight with the local education authority—surely there might be some method by which the local education authority which had behaved reasonably should be treated better than the body which had behaved unreasonably. Here was the real difficulty, by which the intention of the Bill was jeopardised. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give the matter his very careful consideration.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said in answer to the inquiry addressed to him by the hon. Member for Perth that the Board of Education already possessed powers under Statute and under the Code to ensure that no unfit or insanitary school was taken over by the local authority. In this clause as it stood the Board was introduced merely to settle the particular terms of agreement, without any reference to the structural or sanitary condition of the schools. But he also thought that the Board of Education ought to hold an inquiry where the two parties could not come to terms. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the parties must be free to bargain. He wanted to ensure that there should be a bargain. Under the clause, as it stood, the parties need never approach one another at all. The right hon. Gentleman had promised facilities. He wished to know whether there would be any facilities at all, and particularly whether the clause would not close the door definitely against any facilities. An hon. Member opposite had stated that it would be a great hardship if they were bound to take over all these schools. The local authority was bound to provide the schools, and all he asked was that they should be bound to deal with the owners of existing schools and necessary schools which had already been recognised by the Board of Education as efficient. He did not think the local authorities should be allowed to pass those schools over and thus put the ratepayers to the expense of building new schools, at the same time placing those who desired definite religious teaching under a great hardship. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had quoted a number of schools that had been declared insanitary. He hoped the Board of Education would ensure in the future, as they had done in the past, that schools were not used by children which were unfit for their accommodation. There were two particular points which he desired to press upon the President of the Board of Education. The first was the great hardship of allowing a local authority the option of passing by and closing a school as a public elementary school upon which large sums of public money had recently been expended on the faith of the Act of 1902. He knew many such schools, and to allow local authorities to pass them over would be inflicting a very grave injustice. His second point was the larger question that the local authority might shut off every school in the area which had previously given definite religious teaching from giving it, and every child from obtaining it at a public elementary school. He knew there were many hon. Members sitting on the Ministerial side of the House who fully realised the danger of leaving to the local education authorities the power of inflicting such a great injustice, and he appealed to the Government to insure that some steps would be taken to render the facilities a reality and not a dead letter. If the right hon. Gentleman could not accept his Amendment in its present form, perhaps he would allow the owners to appeal to the Board of Education, and demand that their schools should be taken over, unless the Board of Education saw grave reasons against that course being taken.

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MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) said that by the first clause of this Bill the voluntary schools would be probably wiped out as rate receiving providers of education, unless in the second clause they were taken over by the local education authority. They were already forsaking one party to this assumed contract, and they had practically starved out almost every voluntary school in the country. These schools which had been supported out of rates and taxes for the last few years and which had made large improvements under the direction of the local authority during those years, in order to comply to the more modern and reasonable requirements, were all practically starved out by the first clause, unless under the second clause they were taken over. There was the strongest safeguard provided against any unreasonable action on the part of the voluntary schools. If this question were to be considered on purely business lines, the advantage was almost entirely with the local authority which had its alternative, that of providing schools out of rates or of acquiring schools. But the voluntary school owners had no alternative whatever, except to submit to the terms of the local authority. All that was required was that the local authority should not be the absolute masters of the situation, but the local authority would be absolute masters unless some provision was made to limit and control any unreasonable exercise of the powers which had been created by the first clause. Further security was wanted in respect to the facilities given in Clauses 3 and 4. It should be treated as a business matter, and in that way the authors of this Bill would be more likely to achieve their object. If something of the kind were not done, there would be a danger of the voluntary schools being practically wiped out by the refusal of the local authorities to bargain with them at all. The scheme of this Bill was one. They could not separate it into water-tight compartments. This was clearly not a case which should be left to the individual and divided action of local authorities elected in different parts of the country to discharge duties not confined to, and not principally composed of education questions, and in which religious difficulties might arise. The Bill was said to effect, but as at present framed it would not effect, a great settlement of this difficult question, complicated as it was by the Bill of 1902, and what had taken place under that Bill. What was wanted was an assurance that the Bill would contain machinery under which substantially the voluntary schools would not be left at the mercy of individual local authorities, but that an appeal should be allowed to some central authority to see that justice was done. To neglect this precaution would be to sow the seeds of a renewed educational difficulty worse than that from which the Government were now seeking to escape.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) said the Minister of Education must himself feel that the Committee, without distinction of party, was entitled now to an assurance from the Government on the lines indicated by the last speaker. [Cries of "No."] Not only was such an assurance wanted from the Government, but they should also give some clear indication of the methods by which they meant to make that assurance good. The Committee had received too many vague assurances from the Government, and hon. Members now wanted to hear how the pledges that had been given were to be carried out. The speeches of the Government's own supporters proved that they too had understood the pledges in the sense which the Opposition had attached to them. But those pledges would be broken, and the purpose of Parliament to safeguard existing rights defeated, if the clause were passed in its present form. The Minister for Education pointed to Clauses 3 and 4 ; but if they left it in the power of any local authority to build schools instead of taking over the existing schools, Clauses 3 and 4 would never come into effect. Ten days ago the Attorney-General, acting on the instructions of the Minister for Education, was occupied in securing a *mandamus* against a local authority for not acting fairly under the present Act; but now the Government were going to give the local authority all control, while denying the small palliative of an appeal for justice when justice was not being done. The position was untenable. Even in some of the schools that were described as unfit, great injustice would be done in respect of the religious teaching desired by the parents, and some general provision was needed to deal with them. Thus where the local authority did not act in the spirit in which the Government intended it should act, they must either exercise control themselves or grant an appeal to authority, and where a local authority was engaged in building up an alternative system of schools, then in those places the Government must by some general provision see that their pledges were fulfilled and that the purpose of Parliament was not frustrated.

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.) contended that this Amendment raised a vital point connected with the Bill and that it was not prudent to come to a premature decision upon it. He joined respectfully in the appeal which had been made by the hon. Member for the Abercromby Division of Liverpool that the Government should not accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for Oxford University, but that they should indicate the kind of provision which would enable supporters of the Government to vote loyally and heartily with them, conscious that through this provision the schemes and the intentions outlined in connection with the Bill might be carried into full effect. They could not vote for the Amendment of the hon. Member for Oxford University, because it would mean the abandonment of the whole principle of the measure. It would mean that the local authority would be bargaining with their hands tied behind them, and that they would have to take over inefficient as well as efficient schools. They all felt the enormous sacrifices that had been made by the Roman Catholics, but he thought that the demand made by the hon. Member for East Mayo that every voluntary school at present existing should be taken over would be to abandon the principle of the Bill, and to make for educational reaction.

MR. DILLON said he did not make that demand at all. What he said was that there must be protection in the veto or the assent of the Board of Education.

MR. MASTERMAN said he thought the hon. Member would agree with him as against the view put forward by the hon. Member for Dover.

MR. WYNDHAM said his contention was that the hon. Member for Perth had not gone far enough, and that in cases where the local authorities refused to take over schools on grounds of sanitation, or because they were structurally unfit, some arrangement made on general principles must be brought into play to meet the rights of the parents of children in those localities where denominational schools were abolished.

MR. MASTERMAN said he accepted the explanation. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that some further provision should be made of a more general character. When they asked for that on a former occasion they did not get the support of the right hon. Gentleman and his friends. He wanted to put the matter quite clearly. They did not want the local education authority to take over all the little voluntary schools if they were not suitable, or except under the condition that it was manifest to the local authority that the people of the district wanted under provisions Clauses 3 and 4 to have really religious teaching. But what were the actual probabilities under this clause? Let them take a district where there were one or two small Roman Catholic schools that had been outside the normal provided school system. The district had been the scene of the most desperate religious fighting during the past four years and there was a large section of the people in it who were determined that under no conditions would they allow anything like denominational teaching to be carried out. They could have settled that perhaps under Clauses 3 and 4, but they could not settle it now, because immediately this provision was passed a large section of the people in that locality would endeavour to induce the local authority to be entirely careless of Clauses 3 and 4 and to decline to allow anything except simple Bible teaching. There they would have in the midst of considerable municipal difficulties the bomb of religious dissension thrown in with such results in the local life of the district as he did not like to contemplate. That could be avoided by allowing the bargaining to continue under the scheme outlined in the second clause and by making it quite evident that if the buildings were bad, insanitary, or unsuitable they would not be paid for. If it was manifestly apparrent that religious bias and animosity were endeavouring in a district to checkmate the beneficent schemes of the Minister of Education then there should be an appeal to the Board of Education. Knowing something of the enflamed condition of public opinion on this religious question, it was impossible for him to say that such a course would not be advocated in the elections of local authorities. He urged the Government to insert a provision of this nature in the Bill.

MR. BIRRELL said nothing was easier for a Minister of Education pressed by a demand of this kind, than to accede to what seemed to be a very easy request, viz., to insert an appeal to the Board of Education against a local authority which declined to take over some particular voluntary school. But what power would he have ultimately behind him to compel acquiescence on the part of local authorities? Would an "inflamed" local authority, animated by the most unscrupulous determinations, be at once calmed and charmed into an attitude of religious toleration and peace by a letter from the Board of Education? Let them suppose a local authority were of opinion that there being already school accommodation in the vicinity for all the children within the area, neither economy nor efficiency required them to take over a voluntary school, then there was an appeal to the Board of Education. On what principles was he, or the Minister of Education at the time, to act? Was he to consider the rates or secular efficiency, or was he to be animated by a love of denominational education? The school was not required numerically, it was redundant, and might easily be got rid of. Nothing demanded that it should be there except the desire of the parents that their children should be educated in denominational religious teaching. He should be perfectly prepared to carry out the injunctions of Parliament in that matter. But it would be a very undesirable thing to have a Minister of Education one year who was animated by such a desire, who thought denominationalism a good thing and should be encouraged, and that Roman Catholicism was a good thing and should be encouraged, and another year to have an Orangeman at the head of the Board of Education who might think that sympathy should not be extended or should be strictly limited to Roman Catholic schools throughout the country. Therefore it would be a most undesirable and a cowardly thing to deal with a matter of this sort simply by shoving it off upon a Minister of Education, leaving it to him to decide a question of such importance as that. The House of Commons could not get rid of its responsibility in this matter by the calm, easy suggestion that it should be handed over to the Board of Education. If the House of Commons thought a local authority should be obliged to acquire all the voluntary schools within its area, subject to the question of suitability, sanitary condition, and the like, that was a view which demanded that the voluntary schools should be required to hand themselves over to the local authority. What about the private owners? Were they to be deprived of the right of saying "We decline to transfer ourselves to the local education authority?" There must be reciprocal compulsion. He quite agreed that as the thing stood there was no obligation upon the authority to acquire these schools. He did not think a scheme of that sort was a wise one. In his opinion, the local authorities, striving after economy, would be as anxious to acquire the many admirable schools throughout the country, as the trustees would be to part with them, and when the Committee came to consider Clauses 3 and 4 he thought he would be able to show that the facilities to be afforded for religious education were true and genuine ones. He quite agreed that as the thing stood there was no obligation upon the authority to acquire these schools. He had said so three or four times. He believed that as a matter of fact there was no obligation, but the inducement to acquire such schools as were well fitted to be public elementary schools. It was impossible to consider any question of making it obligatory on the local education authority to acquire these schools without making a corresponding obligation on the owners of all schools, whether private owners or trustees, to hand them over.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the right hon. Gentleman had been perfectly candid and had admitted that under this clause there was absolutely no compulsion on any local authority, and no inducement on them except the desire for economy. [AN HON. MEMBER: And efficiency.] That was what the right hon. Gentleman said. Then the right hon. Gentleman, having made that admission, conceived himself, if this Amendment were accepted, as Minister for Education having to decide whether a particular school should or should not be taken over. He asked on what principles he was to decide. But had not the Government better decide it in accordance with their own pledges? Did they not lay it down in the most explicit way that

these privileges for denominational education were to be given? Was that not a pledge to the House and to the country? And was the right hon. Gentleman now to shrink back from that pledge because he was afraid in his official capacity of coming into collision with some local authority? If that terror overhung the policy of the Government, if that was really going to be the governing consideration, must they not believe that the "may" which occurred in Clause 4 was intended to remain "may," and was not going to be converted into "must"? Was it not evident that a Government which were going to leave these matters to the education authority, although they might talk as much as they liked about the good sense, the excellent intentions, and the economic aims of these local authorities, were in reality foisting a Bill on the House under false pretences? The Bill the Government were trying to pass was not the Bill they introduced, it was not the Bill they had recommended to the country, it was not the Bill of which the right hon. Gentleman spoke to the Jews, or of which he had spoken across the floor of the House—he dared say that would also apply to the Roman Catholics — and it was not the Bill which he was recommending to the Anglicans. Granted, if they liked, for the sake of argument, that the Amendment was one which for administrative reasons could not be accepted, it was the business of the Government to find a means of carrying into effect their own promises. Did the Government deny that the policy they on that side recommended was in accordance with their account of their own Bill? They could not deny that; and if they made the admission that there was this discrepancy between promise and performance, it was for them, rather than the Opposition, to make the change in the Bill which would bring it into conformity with their own pledges. The policy of the hon. Member for West Ham was that it was quite right that the local authority should be obliged to take over fitting schools, but not unfitting schools. That policy, it had been pointed out, would make the education of some children depend not on the wishes of the parents, but on the state of the drains—a rather paradoxical result. But at all events the hon. Member's point would be met if the Amendment were to read as follows:—"The local education authority shall continue any existing voluntary school unless for some good cause, and with the consent of the Board of Education," etc. That would show that it was not to be left to the local authority to exercise the inquisitorial power of determining what religion should be taught to the children in each district. If the Government challenged him to make a suggestion, he threw that out for what it was worth. It met the only effective point which had been raised against his hon. friend's Amendment; it had the merit, which hon. Gentlemen opposite should appreciate, of retaining intact the honour of the Government which they were pledged to support; and it was a serious effort, though perhaps not the best, to make the Bill correspond with the promises which had been made. He earnestly suggested that such an amendment to the Amendment should receive the acceptance of the Committee.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) said the Opposition seeing that their Amendment must be voted down by the majority of the Committee were now suggesting with more or less speciousness that something else might be adopted. He warned his right hon. friend the Minister for Education, as one who had had experience in Committee, against these tactics. A great deal of ground had been covered in the discussion of this Amendment and they had got more or less into a Second Reading debate, but he wanted to get back to the discussion of the Amendment. It was said that they were bound to adopt the Amendment in order to support the honour of their own Government, but that was not so. The Amendment would mean that in the case of 14,000 schools, whatever their equipment or educational efficiency might be, the local authority was to be compelled to take them over. That was the meaning of the Amendment in plain English. Then came the question whether they were maintaining their pledges or whether they were trying to pass the Bill under false pretences. The principle of the clause was that the local authority was to decide in these matters, and the question for them was whether they were to turn their backs upon that principle or not. He hoped they would not do so, and if the Government were compelled by a feeble and distracted Opposition to take over every voluntary school, he did not know what their position would be in the country. That was not the issue the Government were sent to office for, and he took this opportunity very respectfully to urge the Government to have regard to their pledges and not to be induced to turn one hair's breadth from the principle they had adopted upon this clause, either in response to approvals from the Liberal side of the Committee or the accusations levelled at them by the Opposition.

LORD R. CECIL said the hon. Member for Mid Glamorganshire had stated that this Amendment provided that the local education authority was to take over in every case and under all circumstances the voluntary schools. It did no such thing. All the Amendment, as moved, provided was to insert the words "shall continue." It was true, and it had been said over and over again, that the words proposed to be inserted eventually would have the effect of leaving it to the local education authority as to whether a school should be taken over or not. But it had always been the purpose of this Amendment to settle the question in that way. The hon. Member for Mid-Glamorgan had said that if the Government gave way on this point they would be turning their backs on the pledges they had given, but unless some such clause as this were inserted it was impossible to make Clause 3 compulsory. It was therefore impossible for the Government to keep their pledges without some such Amendment as this. They on that side were getting very tired of the sympathy of the right hon. Gentleman. The Committee would remember the story of the "Walrus and the Carpenter." At the end of their historic walk the walrus and the carpenter sat down to eat the oysters—

> "'I weep for you,' the walrus said,
> 'I deeply sympathise';
> With sobs and tears he sorted out
> Those of the largest size."

And that was the kind of sympathy they were offered by the right hon. Gentleman. The Committee was entitled to know whether the right hon. Gentleman's sympathy for the voluntary schools was real or not. If hon. Members opposite really wanted to do justice to the voluntary schools they would vote for some such Amendment as this

MR. BELLOC (Salford) said that as a Member for a constituency in South Lancashire in which there was a dense urban Roman Catholic population, the large majority of which voted for the Government in the last election upon the distinct understanding that the rights that that community now enjoyed should be continued under the law, it was his duty to keep the pledges he made when elected. Unless they could get something more satisfactory from the Government than the declarations of the Minister for Education, he would be compelled upon this occasion, and with great reluctance, to vote in the wrong lobby.

MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, South) said the Wesleyan Church wished to be left in a position of absolute liberty to deal with their schools as they thought best. It was perfectly obvious that the substitution of the word "shall" for "may" would render it obligatory for the local education authority to purchase denominational schools. Some of the schools of the Wesleyan Church were at this moment conducted in close connection with the church, in buildings which were part and parcel of the churches, in some cases underneath some of their oldest buildings. They might not want, and probably would not want to sell or lease those buildings to the local authority. In many towns they might find it wise not to deal with the education authority at all. They might find it reasonable and preferable to deal with their schools for the use of Sunday schools or to sell them in the open market. They were perfectly willing, while holding this position of perfect freedom, to trust to the justice of the local authority, and they knew they would deal far more fairly with them if they enjoyed this position of liberty.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask you exactly where we stand on this Amendment. I wish to ask you how I could best amend the Amendment. Could I do so by adding the words "unless with some good cause, and with the consent of the Board of Education?" I do not argue the Amendment, but I should be glad to know whether it is possible to move it.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That can only be done if and after the words proposed to be left out are left out. The Question I shall put is that the words proposed to be left out stand part, and if they stand part that Amendment of the words proposed to be inserted cannot be moved.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said he felt very strongly upon this subject, and he desired to regard it not in the light of election pledges, but in the light of trying to deal fairly with the owners. They wanted first of all to find a fair basis of bargain. He maintained that the present position was not a fair basis, and the right hon. Gentleman had put it again and again that the owners would not be bound to get rid of their schools. As a matter of fact they would be bound to get rid of them. They were bound by the money question; they could not get the funds. Was it a fair bargain that the other party might pass them by or say, "You must come in or you will not get the money without which you cannot carry on?" He put it to the Minister for Education that this was a difficulty in regard to which it was the duty of the Government to find a way out. The right hon. Gentleman had alluded to the difficulty, but he (Mr. Harwood) said it was a matter that the Committee ought to settle for itself under the guidance of the Government and not hand it over to the local education authority. The right hon. Gentleman in his last speech had suggested another reason which ought to make the Committee think very seriously about this matter. Suppose there was enough accommodation in the schools which were undenominational, the local authority might refuse to take over the denominational schools and sweep the children into the undenominational schools. They certainly might do so, but it would be abominable tyranny. Suppose one-third of the parents of the children in a denominational school desired denominational teaching for their children, and suppose in the undenominational school there was accommodation for those children. They had only to throw over the denominational school and do nothing more, and the children would be driven into the undenominational school. Was it a wise thing to throw the apple of discord into all the local elections? Should not Parliament relieve the localities of that and settle the broad lines?

The Minister for Education had said it was difficult; they knew it was difficult, but he would like some word from the right hon. Gentleman to say that the Government would consider the problem, provide for the difficulty, and lay down the conditions of a fair bargain.

*MR. STUART (Sunderland) said he could not vote for this Amendment because he thought it incomplete, but the Bill from beginning to end was in the nature of a compromise, and he urged upon the Government, before this clause was finished, to take into account the fair and reasonable nervousness of Members opposite on this point. He thought the Minister for Education exaggerated the administrative difficulties connected with the proposal of the hon. Member for the Abercromby Division as a substitute for this Amendment, because it referred not to all time in the future, but to an existing set of schools which could be perfectly well dealt with. He urged that this measure, which in many points he did not approve of, should as a compromise not proceed on any hard and fast lines.

MR. ADKINS (Lancashire, Middleton) hoped the Government would harden their hearts against a good many of the speeches they had heard in this debate. He knew of no precedent which placed upon local authorities compulsorily the duty and the difficulties which the Amendment would put upon them, and he hoped the principle of the Bill as it stood, which left and intended to leave a real discretion to the local authorities, would remain the principle of this clause. Hon. Members opposite must know well that the local education authorities throughout England were singularly free from political and party bias. That was an expression of conscientious belief founded on some experience, not only of some of those authorities but of their representatives in great municipal associations. He believed it to be impossible either for Parliament or for the Minister for Education to deal with every particular detail and possibility that might arise; and if they did not deal with all directly from that House or by a Government Department, they must sooner or later leave the real discretion to the local authorities. As an ordinary Member for an ordinary English constituency which would be affected by the passing of this Bill, he earnestly hoped the Government would not take away from the local authorities that discretion which was their due, and which was necessary if they were to secure to the local authorites the services of the best and the most energetic people.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) said he was only going to make one more appeal to the right hon. Gentleman. He desired to ask him, after all that had been said on both sides of the Committee, whether he would not say what was going to be done to meet the general wishes of the Committee; or was he going to tell them that he had said his last word upon this matter? The right hon. Gentleman had stated that the question of allowing some such Amendment as this would necessarily cause some reciprocal Amendment being brought to bear upon the owners and trustees of schools, and he stated in reference to that that there was no compulsion upon them under Clause 8. He entirely disagreed with the view, but would he give a reciprocal right to the owners of schools who were left out of those schemes? Or had he said the last word upon this occasion? He did not think anybody need apologise for continuing the debate for this simple reason, that if this were a debate as to whether or not denominational education should be continued in our national schools, then not one or two or three days would be sufficient to discuss that question. But the question was a much larger one. The question now was not whether the Imperial Parliament should abolish denominational education, but whether they would give the local authorities elected for entirely different purposes, the power to abolish denominational education. Would the Minister of Education tell them that he was not going to make any attempt to meet the difficulties which had been raised, and that it was the policy of the Government that the local educational authorities in this country should have the right to abolish denominational education?

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MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said he felt very strongly upon this subject, and he desired to regard it not in the light of election pledges, but in the light of trying to deal fairly with the owners. They wanted first of all to find a fair basis of bargain. He maintained that the present position was not a fair basis, and the right hon. Gentleman had put it again and again that the owners would not be bound to get rid of their schools. As a matter of fact they would be bound to get rid of them. They were bound by the money question; they could not get the funds. Was it a fair bargain that the other party might pass them by or say, "You must come in or you will not get the money without which you cannot carry on?" He put it to the Minister for Education that this was a difficulty in regard to which it was the duty of the Government to find a way out. The right hon. Gentleman had alluded to the difficulty, but he (Mr. Harwood) said it was a matter that the Committee ought to settle for itself under the guidance of the Government and not hand it over to the local education authority. The right hon. Gentleman in his last speech had suggested another reason which ought to make the Committee think very seriously about this matter. Suppose there was enough accommodation in the schools which were undenominational, the local authority might refuse to take over the denominational schools and sweep the children into the undenominational schools. They certainly might do so, but it would be abominable tyranny. Suppose one-third of the parents of the children in a denominational school desired denominational teaching for their children, and suppose in the undenominational school there was accommodation for those children. They had only to throw over the denominational school and do nothing more, and the children would be driven into the undenominational school. Was it a wise thing to throw the apple of discord into all the local elections? Should not Parliament relieve the localities of that and settle the broad lines?

The Minister for Education had said it was difficult; they knew it was difficult, but he would like some word from the right hon. Gentleman to say that the Government would consider the problem, provide for the difficulty, and lay down the conditions of a fair bargain.

*MR. STUART (Sunderland) said he could not vote for this Amendment because he thought it incomplete, but the Bill from beginning to end was in the nature of a compromise, and he urged upon the Government, before this clause was finished, to take into account the fair and reasonable nervousness of Members opposite on this point. He thought the Minister for Education exaggerated the administrative difficulties connected with the proposal of the hon. Member for the Abercromby Division as a substitute for this Amendment, because it referred not to all time in the future, but to an existing set of schools which could be perfectly well dealt with. He urged that this measure, which in many points he did not approve of, should as a compromise not proceed on any hard and fast lines.

MR. ADKINS (Lancashire, Middleton) hoped the Government would harden their hearts against a good many of the speeches they had heard in this debate. He knew of no precedent which placed upon local authorities compulsorily the duty and the difficulties which the Amendment would put upon them, and he hoped the principle of the Bill as it stood, which left and intended to leave a real discretion to the local authorities, would remain the principle of this clause. Hon. Members opposite must know well that the local education authorities throughout England were singularly free from political and party bias. That was an expression of conscientious belief founded on some experience, not only of some of those authorities but of their representatives in great municipal associations. He believed it to be impossible either for Parliament or for the Minister for Education to deal with every particular detail and possibility that might arise; and if they did not deal with all directly from that House or by a Government Department, they must sooner or later leave the real discretion to the local authorities. As an ordinary Member for an ordinary English constituency which would be affected by the passing of this Bill, he earnestly hoped the Government would not take away from the local authorities that discretion which was their due, and which was necessary if they were to secure to the local authorites the services of the best and the most energetic people.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) said he was only going to make one more appeal to the right hon. Gentleman. He desired to ask him, after all that had been said on both sides of the Committee, whether he would not say what was going to be done to meet the general wishes of the Committee; or was he going to tell them that he had said his last word upon this matter? The right hon. Gentleman had stated that the question of allowing some such Amendment as this would necessarily cause some reciprocal Amendment being brought to bear upon the owners and trustees of schools, and he stated in reference to that that there was no compulsion upon them under Clause 8. He entirely disagreed with the view, but would he give a reciprocal right to the owners of schools who were left out of those schemes? Or had he said the last word upon this occasion? He did not think anybody need apologise for continuing the debate for this simple reason, that if this were a debate as to whether or not denominational education should be continued in our national schools, then not one or two or three days would be sufficient to discuss that question. But the question was a much larger one. The question now was not whether the Imperial Parliament should abolish denominational education, but whether they would give the local authorities elected for entirely different purposes, the power to abolish denominational education. Would the Minister of Education tell them that he was not going to make any attempt to meet the difficulties which had been raised, and that it was the policy of the Government that the local educational authorities in this country should have the right to abolish denominational education?

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 313; Noes, 133. (Division List No. 110.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch
Armitage, R.
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C .B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, JohnWilliams(Devonp't
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, SirJohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hon.SydneyCharles
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H.W.
Causton, Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt.Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett, CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Gory, Clifford John.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col.Alan(Hereford,S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir. Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt.Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H.Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry

O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Price, RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H(Ashton-under-Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E
Thomas, SirA.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H.(SomersetE
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, SirJohnL.(Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A.(Elgin&Nairn)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon.C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, HenryJ.(York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJT(Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley, and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, RtHnA.J.(CityLond.)
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stuart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir. Edw H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt.Hon,VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, LordR.(Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Courthope, G. Lloyd
Craig, CharlesCurtis(Antrim,S.
Craig, CaptainJames(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galw'y
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt W. V .(Hants, W.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Glover, Thomas
Haddock, George R.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hammond, John
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt.Hon.Sir JohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hon.Col.W
King, SirHenrySeymour(Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareh'm
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(DublinS.)
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton

Mooney, J. J.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, SirGilbert(Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thornton, Percy M.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

SIR G. KEKEWICH (Exeter), in moving an Amendment to require that the premises of a voluntary school before being taken over should be certified by the Board of Education to be efficient, said he was told that what he was proposing was already provided for in the Bill. It was absolutely essential that the schools taken over by the local education authority should be efficient. After the speech of the hon. Member for North Camberwell no one would doubt that there were still a large number of bad schools which were not conducive to the health of the teachers or the scholars. In rural districts in the old days landlords were allowed to put up any kind of schools they liked. When children were compelled to go to school the State was bound to ensure that the schools were healthy places for them to be in. He could give an instance of a school in Liverpool which ever since 1870 had been unsatisfactory, and which might have been closed any time during that period. That school was so bad that he would rather see the children running the streets than being taught in it. He was told that under the county council now everything was *couleur de rose.* He happened to be a member of a county council and of the education committee, and there was nothing so difficult as to make a county council take drastic measures with reference to the condition of the schools. If the real education authority was the county council they would have popular control, but under this Bill they had not got it, because the education committees were composed in large part of men placed there not for educational but for political reasons. Education committees were not popular control, and that was why he did not care to give them unlimited authority under this Bill in this particular. The Board of Education was the only authority that could set up a fair standard of buildings to prevail throughout the kingdom. In the past the Board of Education had certified premises which were quite the reverse of efficient, but if they gave them the duty of actually certifying the schools as efficient under the improved administration of his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education he really thought there would be a great improvement effected. He moved this Amendment in the interests of the teachers and scholars and also in the interests of education. It was not a fascinating or heroic Amendment, but it was educational, and if passed it would have the effect of making the lives of both children and teachers happier in the future.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, after the first word 'school,' to insert the words 'the premises of which are certified by the Board of Education to be efficient.'"—(*Sir George Kekewich.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.) said he would give the Committee reasons why the Amendment was unnecessary, and why it would be redundant in the clause. Under the Bill as it stood it was optional for the local education authority to take over any school. In the second place, the consent of the Board of Education was necessary for the taking over of a school under this clause, and the

Board would not give that sanction unless it knew the school to be efficient, and he thought that was a complete answer to his hon. friend who had moved this Amendment. The statement that the practice of the Board of Education with regard to the efficiency of schools had been greatly improved was quite correct, and this was largely due to the efforts of those who formed the late Board of Education. The standard of efficiency of the schools had been greatly raised since the year 1902. If under the present law an undesirable school were taken over that might happen if the proposal now made were adopted. Under the circumstances the Amendment was quite unnecessary and redundant. He hoped his hon. friend would not press it further.

LORD BALCARRES said the terms of the Amendment were somewhat ambiguous. The word "premises" was indefinite, "schoolhouse" being the usual term. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had said the Amendment was superfluous because what was proposed was already provided for in the clause. He said that the substance of what the mover of the Amendment contended for was met in line 14. Did that mean that the Board of Education was under any obligation whatever, before agreeing to a transfer under Clause 2, to grant a certificate that a school was efficient as regarded structure and sanitation?

*MR. LOUGH: That is the law at present.

ORD BALCARRES said it might be the law at present, but the hon. Member for Exeter had stated that, in regard to drains, structure, and so on, it was a dead letter.

*MR. LOUGH: You may have a good law, but you may not have it carried out. The law compels the Board of Education to certify every public elementary school as efficient for the purpose for which it is used.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said it was important that they should know the precise meaning of the clause. The Board of Education had abundant powers to ensure that the sanitary and structural condition of a public elementary school was efficient. He asked the Parliamentary Secretary to say whether the words in the clause referred to the efficiency of the school or to the terms of the arrangement made.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) said that no school could be a public elementary school at all unless certified by the Board of Education as efficient.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON moved an Amendment with the object of securing greater publicity and more careful inquiry when the local authority and the owners of a school failed to agree on terms. If the parties failed to agree, he said, the Board of Education had to determine, and if the matter went to Whitehall it would be determined *in camera*. He desired that before settling the matter the Board of Education should hold a local public inquiry. Public inquiries were a very useful means of ventilating the questions which arose from time to time before the Board of Education. If the owners of the schoolhouse and the local authority came to a dead-lock the result would be, he took it, that if the owners were trustees they would go before the Commission, but if they were not there was no tribunal to which they could appeal. His object was that a local inquiry should be held.

Amendment proposed—

"Clause 2, in page 1, lines 13 and 14, leave out 'with the consent of the Board of Education.'"—(*Sir W. Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

*MR. LOUGH said that the Committee had discussed very fully the substance of this Amendment in the earlier part of the day. He thought the words proposed to be omitted were most useful, and he hoped the right hon. Baronet would not press his Amendment, which the Government could not possibly accept.

***Sir WILLIAM ANSON** asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said that the Bill allowed a great deal of local option, which he thought in many respects was a very excellent thing, but it might be carried too far, as he understood the local authority could not bind itself in any contract except under seal. He thought that the clause as it stood was most unsatisfactory and would give rise to all sorts of litigation. His Amendment, he believed would avoid that litigation.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, Clause 2, line 15, after 'agreement,' insert 'under seal.'"—(*Mr. Ashley*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir W. ROBSON said that the local authority was a corporation, and no corporation could make any contract at all except under Seal.

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN said that, on behalf of his hon. friend the Member for Finsbury, he wished to move the Amendment on the Paper in order to obviate any question which might arise as to whether the property transferred included not only the school-house but the teacher's house and the playground.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, Clause 2, line 15, leave out the words 'school-house of the.'"—(*Mr. Remnant.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Sir W. ROBSON said that that point had been decided by the Education Act of 1870. There was no doubt whatever that the word "school-house" included the teacher's house and the playground. No doubt attached to the meaning of the word in the Law Courts.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he agreed with the hon. and learned Solicitor-General that the word "school-house" included teacher's house and the playground, and he thought that the explanation of the Solicitor-General could be accepted as satisfactory.

Lord BALCARRES said that up till now there had been some difficulty as to the definition of "school-house," and, notwithstanding his hon. friend's agreement with the Solicitor-General, he thought that now that the existing voluntary schools were to be transferred on unjust terms, it was necessary to have the most precise definition of what constituted a school-house. He did not think the proposal of the Government would work well, and, if the negotiations broke down, hardship would be inflicted. He thought attention should be given to the case of marine schools and other schools of that class. There were a great many public elementary schools which were run as part of orphanages chiefly under conventual management. These belonged to religious communities who picked up hapless waifs and strays and gave them a good home and education. These people lived within the school-house, and also within a convent, where the brothers or sisters also resided. Under the words of the Bill the structure of the school was to be transferred to the local education authority. But they could not, it seemed to him, transfer portions of a building containing fifty or sixty nuns or sisters of mercy, and in which 100 or 150 children resided, to the local education authority. Although these were boarding schools they were also elementary schools and received something from the public Exchequer. He wanted to know whether any special provision was made for such cases as these. He invited the Solicitor-General to say whether some general agreement could not be come to in regard to these marine schools or boarding schools conducted in connection with convents.

***The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Caldwell, Lanark, Mid) said that the hon. Member was not in order, as a subsequent portion of the Bill dealt with marine schools and boarding schools. He referred particularly to Section 38.

LORD BALCARRES said that while it was perfectly true that under Clause 38 the Board of Education reserved the right to pay grants to marine schools, boarding schools in convents and such like institutions, including Dr. Barnardo's Homes and the Royal Hibernian Schools, still, that clause said nothing about the transfer of structures to the county councils or local education authorities.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said the Amendment dealt only with the persons with whom arrangements were to be made and did not raise the question which the noble Lord wished to discuss.

LORD BALCARRES submitted that the clause dealt with questions concerning the owners of the school and of the school-house. He was dealing with the definition of "school-house," and therefore he thought he was in order.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said the owners of the school and of the school-house appeared to be the same for this purpose. The question as to who ought to be inserted as owners, whether the owners of the school-house or of the school, did not raise the question of the expediency of the merits of the agreement.

LORD BALCARRES contended that the owners of schools carried on by religious bodies could not be treated in the same manner as the owners of an ordinary village school, or an ordinary urban school.

MR. BRIDGEMAN said that Clause 3 of the Act of 1870 said that the term "school-house" should include the teacher's dwelling house and the playground, if any. That made it rather doubtful whether, when a teacher's dwelling house was not part of the school and was not within the circuit of the school premises, it could be treated as part of what was to be transferred under this Bill, and about which an agreement could be come to between the local education authority and the owners. There were a great many cases in which there was a house quite apart from the school for the use of the teacher, and he wanted to know, whether, under the Bill, the term school-house would cover the teacher's residence in such cases as these.

SIR W. ROBSON said there was no doubt about the point. It was the propinquity of the teacher's residence to the neighbourhood in which the children were taught which brought it within the definition of the word "school-house." It did not matter if it were not part of the same building. If the teacher's dwelling house was required for the school it constituted part of the school-house.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said that Clause 7 of the Act of 1902 provided that the managers should furnish the "school-house" free of any charge except for the teachers dwelling house, if any. What would be the positions of owners and managers as regards this responsibility? In a school with which he was once connected, a house for the teacher was rented for £24 a year. That was really a substantial sum, and he wished to know whether it would be retained by the owners or would pass with the ownership of the school? If the latter the provision was something in the nature of confiscation. This was a matter of great interest to those concerned in the management of schools.

SIR W. ROBSON said that Section 7 of the Act of 1902 did not in any way alter the definition of "school-house" laid down in Section 3 of the Act of 1870. What it did was to allow a denomination to occupy a teacher's house and to charge the rent upon it separately. This Bill did not affect that arrangement. It simply said that where the parties desired it the teacher's house might come within the meaning of the word "school-house" and be made part of the arrangement, and it was very much in the interest of the voluntary schools that it should be made part of the arrangement.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL: That is my point.

SIR W. ROBSON said it was very much to the advantage of the voluntary schools that the teacher's residence should be made part of the arrangement, because if it were not, the voluntary school managers would find that they had on their hands a house governed by a trust, and they might even be obliged to provide a new house, so that the Amendment would work with inconvenience to both parties.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn) apologised for not being present when his Amendment was called on. As it had been been moved, however, he would only say that he thought it was not an unreasonable one. Everything he had heard since he came into the House led him to that belief, and the explanation given by the Solicitor-General had not removed his objection to the provision of the Bill as it stood.

Amendment negatived.

MR. BRIDGEMAN moved an Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Huntingdon providing that the local education authorities might make arrangements with the owners of a voluntary school, not only for the use of the school-house for carrying on a public elementary school, but also "on three days a week free of charge for any other educational purpose." He said that upon this Amendment turned the whole question of the use of the voluntary schools for evening instruction. It was a most important Amendment, and it was a matter of surprise to him that neither the hon. Member in whose name it was on the Paper nor any other supporter of the Government had moved it. The great educational development of the future would be the development of the evening continuation classes in the rural districts, and he saw no provision in the Bill for the purpose of retaining evening school teaching. He thought this Amendment was an extremely important one, and if it was to be passed over and not inserted in the Bill then the Committee was entitled to ask what provision was going to be made in the Bill to allow the owners of these schools to have the use of them for continuation classes. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, after the word 'school,' to insert the words 'and on three days a week free of charge for any other educational purpose.'"—(*Mr. Bridgeman.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.) expressed the opinion that under this Bill the local authorities were not getting sufficient for their money. The Bill had been described as a measure of rural emancipation. He thought it would not be satisfactory if the local authorities did not have a hall in every village in which opinions might be expressed and matters discussed and evening classes held. He considered that not only ought they to have control of the building before hours, when classes were not being held, but that they should have complete control of the building during the five days in which school was carried on in order that they might have complete control of the school in the evening. It was not an unreasonable thing to ask, because everyone knew what difficulty there was for anyone to get the use of the school buildings for the evening when they did not agree with the local clergyman and the local squire. A land reformer, for instance, in some parts of the country could not obtain the use of any building at all in the village for these reasons; he thought the Amendment was one which the Government ought to accept.

MR. LOUGH said that under the Bill the local education authority would be free to make any arrangements it pleased with the owners of schoolhouses. The provision made under the Act of 1902 for the free use of schools three evenings a week was a set-off against cost of maintenance and other advantages accorded to voluntary schools. An entirely different arrangement was now substituted, and the Government must be just to the owners of schools as well as to the local education authority. The position might be put thus—the owners had the schools, and the local education authority wanted them. In some cases they would be wanted for the mornings and afternoons only, in others for the evenings. For whatever time they might be required stipulation should be made and payment accordingly. He resisted the Amendment.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL said he did not think it would be at all wise in the interest of education to be too strict or rigid with regard to this point. There was now so much educational life in our schools that they were constantly being wanted at night for one purpose or other, and from his knowledge of the local educational life in the part of the country with which he was connected it would, in his opinion, be a very great hardship on the owners of these schools if they had to give them up on three nights a week.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) said he desired to move, as an Amendment to the Amendment, to leave out the words "free of charge." The Bill proposed that the local education authority should have the use of the schools on three nights a week. He submitted that if it was thought necessary that they should have the use of them for that period it should only be given in return for proper remuneration. There was no ground for the use of these schools being granted to the local education authority free of charge on three nights a week. In this Bill the Government were going as far as they could against the owners of the voluntary schools and meting out to them under Clause II. all the injustices already meted out to other classes of the community. There was no precedent for such a clause as this. That being so, when money had been spent at the invitation of Parliament in the prosecution of a particular enterprise, and where for reasons of State the Government took that enterprise over, it was necessary that they should not add to that this extra injustice. The taking over of the schools for three nights a week free of charge was objectionable in the last degree, and if this Amendment was to be accepted at all it should be accepted with the words "free of charge" left out. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'free of charge.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'free of charge' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester) thought the words "free of charge" were quite unnecessary in the original Amendment. If the local authorities entered into an arrangement with the owners of the schools they would assuredly contemplate the use of the schools in the evening. He would therefore respectfully advise the mover of the Amendment to accept the proposal of the hon. Member for Cambridge University.

MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.) said it might have escaped the attention of some members of the Committee that the clause only enabled a school to be acquired for one purpose, namely, the carrying on of a public elementary school. He thought those who were supporting the Amendment wished for a broader use of the schools. They knew how constantly schools were used with great advantage for other purposes as well. Under the clause as it now stood they would only be able to bargain for the use of the school for the one purpose of teaching children. He appealed for a broader and wider use of these schools out of school hours in the evening or at other times on three days a week.

LORD BALCARRES pointed out that the Amendment asked for the use of the school on three days a week free of charge. Of course there were not three days available other than those already transferred to the local education authority. Three evenings a week was obviously intended, and the proposal was to carry out in this Bill the statutory requirements of the Act of 1902. The strict interpretation of the proposal would prevent that being done.

MR. BRIDGEMAN said he was prepared to accept the Amendment to the Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

Question, as amended, proposed,

LORD BALCARRES said the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education stated that under Section 19 of the Act of 1870 provision could be made for evening schools. He submitted that the hon. Gentleman was entirely wrong. Section 19 of the Act made provision for public elementary education. Evening continuation schools were not public elementary schools at all. He would ask the hon. Gentleman to consider Section 22 of the Act, which stipulated that the expression "elementary school" should not include any school carried on as an evening continuation school under the regulations of the Board of Education. As the clause stood at present the local education authority would be surcharged if they made it a part of the agreement to use the schools for the purpose suggested. It was, therefore, imperative either now or at a later stage for the Government to give way on this point; otherwise it would be impossible to obtain by right the use of the schoolhouse on two or three evenings a week for evening continuation schools.

MR. ROGERS (Wiltshire, Devizes) did not see why the rights already secured relative to the use of the schoolhouse should be taken away. If the Government would incorporate words in the Bill to maintain this right it would very much strengthen the position of the local education authority. He understood from the speeches made on the subject that the idea of the Bill was that the local education authority should have access to the building during the hours required for elementary education and that the trustees were to have the sole use of the building during other times. If that were the case, surely this Committee ought to define very clearly whether it was intended that the local education authority should have the use of the building for purposes of evening continuation schools or not. Evening schools were a very valuable part of education. If the education authority were going to pay rent partly for the use of the school during the day and partly for its use during the evening, they would have to apportion it between higher and elementary education. It would introduce a great comparison of book-keeping which might easily be saved by words such as those which were in the Act of 1902.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD joined in the appeal to the Government to consider this matter. The Bill as drafted, he thought, did not give the local education authority power to make arrangements for evening continuation schools. If he were wrong in that belief perhaps he might be informed wherein the error lay. If he were right, surely it was necessary to confer such power on the local education authority. Those who had been concerned with the administration of educational affairs felt very strongly that in many respects these evening continuation schools were more important than day schools in many parts of the country. He trusted that the Government would meet them in this respect. He was bound to say, however, that he thought the wording of this Amendment was exceedingly awkward. If the Government would give them some assurance that at some subsequent part of the Bill or at the present stage they would provide that evening continuation schools could be arranged for, then the Amendment might very easily be withdrawn.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS contended that evening continuation schools were already provided for. He objected to mixing up elementary and secondary education, for it was much better to keep them separate as they were at the present time. The county councils had the whiskey money, and they could draw upon the rates, and therefore they would always be able to hire the schools. He did not think they ought to force upon the owners of these schools the obligation of letting their schools for secondary education.

*MR. LOUGH said the clause as it stood gave full power to make any arrangement with regard to elementary education. If the schools were wanted for other purposes the local education authority had powers under Part II. of the Act of 1902 to acquire them for evening schools and other purposes of higher education and so could deal with the matter. From every standpoint this Amendment was quite unnecessary.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said it was no doubt clear that public elementary schools must be provided schools. It was quite a new thing, however, if the restriction was now to be introduced that continuation schools, in order to earn a grant, must be conducted only by the local education authority.

LORD BALCARRES said he must press the President of the Board of Education to give an answer upon this point. They had been told that the proposal in the Amendment was already provided for in the Bill. The Secretary to the Board of Education had given them three explanations already, all of them different. They were aware that county councils had power to spend money up to a certain limit for the purposes of higher education and evening continuation schools. Consequently the local education authority had the right to hire rooms, but not the rooms in those particular school houses. The ordinary assumption was that the rooms in those school houses were the best equipped for the purpose, and in the Act of 1902 this power was given under Section 22. That section was now to be repealed and it was idle for the hon. Member to say that the local education authority could still secure the use of those school houses.

DR. MACNAMARA pointed out that, under Section 2 of the Act of 1902, the local authority might take all steps necessary in the way of renting rooms for the purposes of night schools or continuation schools.

MR. WYNDHAM said the hon. Member did not see that the whole structure of the Act of 1902 was destroyed by the fact that the Bill authorised the education authority to enter into a bargain with the owners of a voluntary school for the use of the school on five days only of the week, leaving the building at the disposal of the owners on two days and every evening. This Bill said that the local authority need not enter into any bargain at all.

MR. BIRRELL said it was true that under Clause 2 the local authority might acquire, by bargain, the premises for use as a public elementary school. But that did not interfere with the power of the local authority, under existing legislation, to enter into other arrangements for the acquisition of the same premises for the purposes of secondary education. They had left this point at large, and they had left the local authority free to acquire the use of the same premises out of the public elementary school hours.

MR. WYNDHAM: That is not a system of national education, the only plea put forward for this Bill.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said the Amendment raised a very important point. He quite understood the point of the Minister of Education. Supposing then an agreement were come to that the local authority should take over a Church of England school in a village where it was the only school, the local authority would be able to use it only as a day school. If they wanted to use any room for continuation classes in the evening they would be able to do so only by making a second bargain with the owners. If the owners refused to make a second bargain the local authority would have to build a new school. In this clause there were not only conditions as to repair, but conditions which the local authority had to undertake in regard to new buildings. If the local authority undertook these conditions surely they ought to have the right to use the school two or three nights a week. It ought not to be left open to a second bargain whether a school might or might not be taken over in the evening for continuation classes for the benefit of the children. If a school was to be taken over in the daytime it ought to be part and parcel of the arrangement that it should be open two or three evenings in the week if the local authority desired so to use it. Under the clause as it stood the owners might refuse to rent the school in the evening, or they might charge an exorbitant rent.

MR. ADKINS hoped the Minister for Education would be able to meet the views of hon. Members in regard to the matter dealt with in this Amendment. It was contemplated by Clause 2 that wherever a school was taken over by arrangement, those who owned the school should be able to insist on the use of the school two days a week for the special instruction in which they were interested.

All that the supporters of the Amendment asked was that the local authority should be able to use a transferred school on three evenings of the week. That ought not to be the subject of a special bargain. It was only by means of evening continuation classes that the youth in some places could get the better education which did not come under the definition "elementary," and it was absolutely vital that accommodation should be available.

*Sir HENRY CRAIK said the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education had not answered the question he asked as to whether voluntary managers might receive grants for continuation classes, or whether these grants were to be confined to schools provided by the local education authority.

Mr. BIRRELL said that question did not arise on this Amendment. Evening continuation classes were not part of elementary education at all. The Bill did not propose to alter the conditions in any way except in regard to public elementary schools.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 97; Noes, 335. (Division List No. 111.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn Sir Alex. F
Adkins, W. Ryland
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Barnes, G. N.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bertram, Julius
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clough, W.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cooper, G. J.
Courthope, G. Lloyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Crooks, William
Dobson, Thomas W.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William

Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Haddock, George R.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hart-Davies, T.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hodge, John
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareham
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare

Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Snowden, P.
Steadman, W. C.
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Verney, F. W.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Whitbread, Howard
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Bridgeman and Mr. Hutton.

NOES

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Armitage, R.
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir

Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beale, W. P.

Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp't
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)

Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt.Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black,ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton,T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsay)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Sir JohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce, J. A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,CH.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David (MontgomeryCo.
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fardell, Sir. T. George
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col.Alan(Hereford,S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazelton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen,W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, AlfredJohn(Knutsford
King, Sir Henry Seymour(Hull)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs.
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal. E.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly James (Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pease Herbert Pike(Darlington
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col.Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert Jn. (Norfolk, E.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford,E.
Radford, G. H.

Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M.(Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas.E. (Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-und.-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith, Hon. W.F.D. (Strand)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot,Rt HnJ.G. (Oxf'dUniv.
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, SirA (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, Jn. Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset,W.)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, G. H. (Worcester)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson,J.W. (Worcestersh. N)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. REMNANT said he hoped the Committee would accept the Amendment standing in his name. At present arrangements might be made one day and changed the next, and his Amendment was designed to obviate, as far as possible, any hardship which might be inflicted on the owners of the schools.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, after the word 'school,' to insert the words 'for a period of not less than three or more than seven years.'"—(*Mr. Remnant*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BIRRELL said he could not agree that the hands of the local authorities or of the trustees should be tied in this particular manner, as the policy of the Bill was that they should have a perfect opportunity of making their own bargain as they thought fit, either for a long or short period. They could make their own arrangements for three, four, five, six or seven years, and he did not see why any restriction should be put upon them.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 84; Noes, 377. (Division List No. 112.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,RtHnSirAlex.F
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, RtHn Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt Hn A.J.(CityLond.)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J.(Birm.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A .E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hervey,FWF(Bury StE'munds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry (Staveley (Staff'sh)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Kennaway,Rt. Hn. Sir John H.

Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hn. Col.W.
King,Sir Henry Seymour(Hull)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee,ArthurH. (Hants.,Farehm
Lockwood, Rt. Hn Lt-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. HnWalter(Dublin,S)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parker,SirGilbert(Gravesend)
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith,F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Remnant and Mr. Claude Hay.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth. John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, Jn. Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Jn.Williams (Devonport
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt.Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff.)
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L. (Lancs. Leigh)
Brunner,Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn.Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,RtHn.Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Tornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirW. J. (S.Pancras, W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David (MontgomeryCo.
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A.(Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner,Col.Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A.(Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Heaton, John Henniker
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison

Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,DavidBrynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil(StPancras, E.)
Leese,SirJoseph F.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever,W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lutterell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza-
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan,J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N) .
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D.(Colchester)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps,J. Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps,Owen C.(Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Rbt. John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H.(Denbighs.)
Robertson,Rt.Hn. E. (Dundee)
RobertsonSirG.Scott (Bradf'rd)
Robertson, J. M.(Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel,Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas E (Manchest'r
Scott,AH (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw,Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D.(Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset E.
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, Jn. Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D.(Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, G. H. (Worcester)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough
Wilson,J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*MR. CAVE said he would not detain the Committee long. The Bill proposed that wherever an arrangement was made the local education authority might make 'fresh arrangements'. He desired it to be made perfectly clear that when an arrangement was coming to an end it might be merely renewed, and that it would not be necessary to enter into a different arrangement. It was with that object he moved the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"Page 1, line 17, after the word 'requires,' to insert the words 'renew any such arrangements or.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BIRRELL said there was no objection to the Amendment if the hon. and learned Gentleman thought it an improvement. He did not think, however, that it was necessary.

LORD BALCARRES said that under this Amendment the question of renewing arrangements came up for the first time. Would the right hon. Gentleman say if in the text of the Bill there was any limitation placed on either the local education authority or the trustees or owners of the schools with regard to the frequency with which these arrangements could be drawn up. Under Clause 4 the local education authority might refuse the special facilities until six months notice had been given. But under Clause 2 as it stood, there was nothing to prevent a local education authority which wished to act in a vexatious manner from saying, six weeks after an arrangement had been arrived at, that they would refuse to continue it. Was that the case—because, while he trusted that the bulk of the local education authorities would act fairly, nobody knew better than the President of the Board of Education, who was at the present moment in conflict with one of them, having put the law into force against the local education authority of the West Riding of Yorkshire, that there were cases where local authorities did act harshly and capriciously towards the owners of the voluntary schools. As the clause now stood there was nothing to prevent the local education authority tearing up an agreement six weeks after it had come to an arrangement. They would never have any ordinary lease drafted upon such terms as were laid down in Clause 2, and he should like to know whether an agreement under this clause could not be capriciously destroyed within a few weeks of its completion.

MR. BIRRELL said there was no such possibility. If they came to such a bargain by what means could the local authority calmly say that they considered the agreement at an end? The agreement would have to be carried out according to its terms, and after the expiration of the term agreed upon a new arrangement might be made. That was why he said that there was no substantial difference between the clause as drafted and the Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR agreed that this was not a question of great substance, but of appropriate drafting. He hoped the Minister for Education would not feel that any insult was being directed against him when he suggested that his own intentions would be more fully carried out if he accepted this Amendment which he had admitted made no difference in the substance of the Bill.

*MR. CAVE said he gathered from the remarks of the Minister for Education that he had really no objection to this Amendment, and he trusted that he would accept it.

MR. BIRRELL said he thought perhaps the Amendment was a slight improvement upon the drafting of the Bill, and he had no objection to accepting it.

Question put, and agreed to.

*MR. THORNTON (Clapham) proposed further to amend the clause by inserting the words, "such arrangements, including agreement to pay annual and substantial rent to the owner or owners of the schoolhouse." His object was to make sure that the owners of the schools would not be put off with a mere peppercorn rent. He was aware that the word "arrangement" was said to include rent, but in order to make the matter perfectly clear he had left his Amendment upon the Paper. Those with the clearest right to speak on behalf of the Anglican schools had unitedly declared that they never instituted these for the purpose of acquiring rent, but that pious donors in the past had in their minds the religious training of the children and believed they were the initiators of abiding foundations. If they were going to be compelled to let their schools they had nevertheless a right to ask that the arrangement should involve the payment of an absolutely substantial rent to the owners of the schoolhouses. If the Bill was not altered it would be necessary for them to provide fresh teachers in denominational schools, and that could not be done without some preparation and money. Surely this was the moment for the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education to speak out clearly, saying what the monetary effect of these "arrangements" would be, when taken in connection with Part II., dealing with educational trusts, and how much of the £1,000,000 annual grant would be available to satisfy the claim of those leasing Anglican schools. He spoke of these, because after the Act of 1870 the schools of Roman Catholics, Jews, and Wesleyans were treated according to their trusts as existing to further the purposes of their own denominations, while the Church of England having undertaken to educate the poor in the doctrine of the Church of England was not permitted to receive more rent than 5 shillings a year for each transfer. Surely then there was reason to ask of the Government to cease speaking in generalities and give particulars which might remove the anxiety from the present owners' minds, fixed as they were on what happened in 1870. They ought to make it quite clear in the Bill that they were not going to be put off with a mere peppercorn rent, and that a substantial payment would be paid for the use of the schools. He thought it was very necessary that this point should be cleared up at this stage of the proceedings. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'manner,' to insert the words 'such arrangements, including agreement to pay annual and substantial rent to the owner or owners of the schoolhouse.'"—(*Mr. Thornton*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir W. ROBSON said that under this agreement it would be open to the authorities to make any agreement they liked in regard to rent, and no doubt the amount of rent would depend upon considerations which it was impossible to specify in the Bill. It must be left to the parties to make any agreement they thought fit.

Mr. RAWLINSON said they wished to make it clear that there was no intention to take advantage of a clause in a trustee deed which prevented the trustees from taking rent, or to take away the grant by a scheme framed under Part II. of the Bill. That would be paying rent with one hand and taking it back again with the other, which he believed was contrary to the intention of the Government. This Amendment was intended to set these doubts at rest, and make it perfectly clear that by this Bill the owners of the schools should receive a substantial rent.

Sir W. ROBSON said that if the local authority desired a school, and the rent asked for seemed to be a proper rent to pay, then the trustees, notwithstanding anything in a trust deed, would be in a position to receive the rent. If the rent could not be agreed upon, the Commissioners might fix the rent under Clause 8.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that after the passing of the Act of 1870 the Education Department laid down a rule that when a school was transferred to a school board only a peppercorn rent should be paid. That was not a statutory requirement but an administrative rule which had no legislative sanction, and had never been embodied in any Act of Parliament. What his hon. friend was afraid of was that some new rule of a similar kind might be adopted under circumstances which were not dissimilar to those under which this rule was made before. The Government claimed that the transfer in all cases was voluntary. A voluntary transfer under the Act of 1870 could be done through the Education Department in such a way as to prevent a transferred school having any rent except a mere peppercorn rent. They desired to put into this Bill some security that such an injustice should not be done.

MR. BIRRELL said there was no such intention in the mind of the Government. They contemplated that a rent would be demanded, and there would be nothing in the administration of his Department to support the idea that a peppercorn rent should be the basis of these bargains. While the Government contemplated that a rent would be one of the subjects of bargaining, they did not wish to stipulate that a rent should in every case be paid.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said nothing could be fairer than the statement of the right hon. Gentleman. He thought the right hon. Gentleman would admit that, in view of what happened after the passing of the Act of 1870, something should be put into the clause. The word "substantial" might preclude a bargain which would be perfectly fair, and he did not think that word should be put in. He suggested that the word "fair" or "adequate" should be inserted so as to prevent the administrative abuses which grew up thirty years ago.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that having the example of the 1870 Act before them, something should be put in to prevent what happened then.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing) said if there was one thing more than another which justified them in pressing the Amendment to a division it was the experience of the 1870 Act and the practice which had grown up to regard a peppercorn rent as the basis for user of the school building. He would remind the President of the Board of Education that the schools which were transferred under that Act were transferred voluntarily, and that the owners who transferred them were satisfied that the provisions of their School Trust deeds (in the main British schools) as to religious teaching were amply secured because those provisions were practically identical with those of the Cowper-Temple clause. Whatever might be said about the proceedings under this Bill being by arrangement, it must be remembered that in districts where there was only one school, the local education authorities, with the aid of the Board of Education, would put an end to denominational schools. It was, therefore, of the utmost necessity to denominations that words should be put into the Bill to ensure that in future an adequate rent should be paid. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education had declared that his writings on the subject of the inalienable right of parents to insist on the denominational teaching of their children was written ironically, but he ventured respectfully to call the attention of the right hon. Gentleman and of the Committee to the advice given by the President in lectures undertaken and delivered by him at the request of the Council of Legal Education to law students upon the rights and duties of trustees. He hoped it would not be said that this advice was not the deliberate opinion of the right hon. and learned Gentleman as to the position of trustees in relation to breaches of trust. In these lectures the President stated that when trustees were invited to commit breaches of trust they should barricade themselves behind their trust deeds and refuse to budge an inch. To maintain the attitude of *non possumus*.

MR. BIRRELL rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 333; Noes, 122. (Division List No. 113.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christch.)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)

Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott(Som's't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastb'rne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham
Beck, A. Cecil
Benn, John Williams (D'v'np't
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'ml'ts,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romf'd)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooks, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness B'ghs
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W.J.(S.Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H. (Sussex,E.Gr'st'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randall
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David (MontgomeryCo.
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner,Col. Alan(Hereford,S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmstworh, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W.Bateman(Som'rs't,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leom'ster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,Hugh Cecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese,Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H.D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield,H.Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza-
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan,J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Donc'str.)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willians
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'th'mpt'n
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central
Price,Robert John (Norfolk, E.

Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell(Scorboro')
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas (W.Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
RobertsonRt.Hn.E. (Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel,Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Scott,A.H. (Ashtonunder Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor,Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (M'rth'r
Thompson, J.W.H. (Som'rs't,E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson,A.(Elgin and Nairn
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh.N.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (H'd'rsf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whitley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J. (CityLond.
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy(Winchester)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Chamberlain,Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galw.
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark,G'v'n
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (Kent,Ashf'd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hazleton, Richard
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey,F.W.F. (Bury S.E'm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Kennaway, Rt. Hn.Sir John H
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hn.Col.W.
Keswick, William
King,SirHenrySeymour (Hull)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal,E.
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson,Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Neild, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscom'n, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker,Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.

Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)

Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G. (Oxf'd Un.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel

Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 87; Noes, 370. (Division List No. 114.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(City Lond
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn.Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan Robert (Lanark, Govan

Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey, F.W.F.(Bury S.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsby)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staffsh.
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin, S.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)

Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G. (Oxf'd Un.
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christch.
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John

Barlow, John Emmott (S'm'rs't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Benn, John Williams (D'v'np't
Benn, W. (T'w'r' H'ml'ts, S.Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black Alexander Wm. (Banff)

Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles

Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,CH.(Sussex,E.Grinsted
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir. H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt.Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobosn, Thomas W.
Dolan, Fharles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Dunacn,C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner,Col. Alan (Hereford,So
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton

Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Heaton, John Henniker
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Feif, West)
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardiner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W, (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.)
Leese,Sir. JosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,JM. (FalkirkBurghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift

Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Meagher, Michael
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. Notts, Bassetlaw))
Newnes Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price. C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, Rober tJohn (Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.

Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott(Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton-under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, E. P. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel(Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset, E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, G. H. (Worcester)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J T.(Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL.

On the order for the Committee stage of this Bill

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland Division) said that the Home Secretary and he had practically come to an arrangement in regard to it. The right hon. Gentleman considered that the measure needed amendment in some particulars, and he therefore proposed to adjourn the Committee stage until Wednesday, so that the right hon. Gentleman might have time to draft his Amendments.

***THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT** (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.) thought the course taken by the hon. Gentleman would facilitate the passing of this much wanted Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that, as one who took an interest in the Bill, he was glad to learn that the long disputed question of musical copyright would soon be brought to a conclusion.

SOLICITORS BILL [LORDS].

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

And, it being half-past Eleven of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at half after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 12*th June*, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill (by Order).

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill (by Order). Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered Tomorrow.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).

Mr. Mooney reported from the Committee on Group H of Private Bills; That Sir Daniel Dixon, one of the members of the said Committee, was not present during the sitting of the Committee this day.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT (1896) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Whitland, against; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA AND CHINA (OPIUM TRAFFIC).

Petition from Cardiff, for suppression; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; From Anstey; Ashley; Bredhurst; Cheshunt; Chichester; Duffield; Frenchay; Hull; Kippax; Langton; Shipton Thorpe; Stoke Newington; Swale Cliff; and, Whitby; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; From Alvanley (two); Aston Subedge (two); Ashurst; Blackford Wedmore; Blackwell; Cilgerran (two); Cockshutt; Colne; Dyrham (two); East Bergholt; Highcliffe (two); Llanpumpsaint; Oxton; South Kennington; Stoke Bruerne; Turvey; Whitley Lower (two); Wolverhampton; and, Worlingworth cum Southolt; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for alteration; From Salisbury and other places; and, Wiltshire; to lie upon the Table.

HOUSE-LETTING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Paisley, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petitions for alteration of Law; From Blandford; Brecknock; Hunslet; Scarborough; Strood; Wem; and, Wheatenhurst; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [Lords].

Petitions for alteration: From Andover (two); Bethnal Green (two); Bexhill; Blackpool (two); Bo'ness; Braintree; Breconshire; Chatham; Clackmannan and Kinross; Cockermouth; Diss; Dundee; Falkirk Burghs (two); Gateshead-on-Tyne; Gillingham; Heckmondwike; Hitchin; Inverness Burghs; Isle of Thanet; King's Lynn; Kinross; Leeds (Central); Linlithgowshire; Maldon; Margate; Mid. Derbyshire; Northampton; North Dorset (two); North-West Durham; Ramsgate; Reading (two); Rye; St. Augustine's; Sandwich; Sheffield (Central); Spen Valley; Stamford (two); Stanley; Tunbridge Wells (two); and, Workington; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions against: From Chorley and Rye; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Hunslet, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3629 to 3632 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN TRADE (COMPARATIVE GROWTH).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 15th May; *Sir Howard Vincent*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 192.]

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Arundel Port, Copy of Annual Report and General Account of the Commissioners of Arundel Port for period from 25th March, 1905, to 25th March, 1906 [by Act].

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Board of Trade Returns.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether in the Customs Statistical Office in the compilation of the Board of Trade Returns of Imports and Exports any of the entries in the Primary Import and Export Registers of Free Merchandise are checked into those registers from the documents passed by importers and exporters, so as to insure that the particulars thus supplied are correctly shown in the Trade Returns; and, if so, whether he can state approximately the proportion of such entries appearing in those registers which were so checked during the past year.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) A considerable number of entries of Free Merchandise, sufficient to insure reasonable accuracy, are checked into the Primary Registers during the course of each month, but as no record is kept of the number so checked the Board of Customs are unable to state the proportion for the past year.

Vacancies for Superintendents at the Central Telegraph Office.

MR. STRAUS (Tower Hamlets, Mile End): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state why the vacancies now existing in the class of superintendents at the Central Telegraph Office have not been filled up.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The delay in this matter has been unavoidable, but I hope to be able to announce a decision very shortly.

War Office and American Tinned Meat.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will explain why the meat contract for the supply of the troops stationed at Aldershot and other barracks, in England, Ireland, and Scotland has been given to Armour and Company of America; and why home produce is not provided as heretofore.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Nothing is known at the War Office of any contract for the supply of fresh meat to the troops in the United Kingdom held by Armour and Company of Chicago.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

H.M.S. "Montagu."

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can now give the House any information as to the prospects of salving H.M.S. "Montagu,' and (in the event of the prospects being favourable) if he can state whether it is anticipated that she can be ultimately restored to a condition of unimpaired fighting efficiency.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): If there is a continuation of the present fine weather for a sufficient period, it is hoped that the vessel will be salved and repaired. The work is being pressed on with all possible speed, and the reports of progress received are satisfactory.

Naval Shipbuilding Programme.

MR. ARTHUR LEE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether there is any foundation for the statement made in the public Press that the Admiralty has decided upon, or has in contemplation, the reduction of one or more of the four armoured vessels of this year's programme.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The article in question was wholly unauthorised, and it is not intended to make any statement on the subject until Vote 8 comes up for discussion.

MR. ARTHUR LEE: When this matter is considered, will the Admiralty take into consideration the fact that by the disablement of the "Montagu" the fighting strength of the Navy has been diminished, possibly permanently, by one of its finest fighting ships?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I think I may say that all relevant facts will be duly considered.

Army Promotion.

MR. LEHMANN (Leicestershire, Market Harborough, on behalf of the hon. Member for the Harwich Division of Essex): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will consider the advisability of putting a stop to the practice of keeping vacancies open in the list of captains of a battalion where the senior subalterns are not qualified for promotion, having regard to the fact that such a system is not only unfair to the junior subalterns qualified for promotion, but is calculated to militate against the general efficiency of the service. I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state why only one of the two vacancies occurring in the list of captains in the Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire) Regiment, has thus far been filled, and that by an officer passing over the heads of two senior subalterns, who presumably were not qualified for promotion; whether there is any intention of keeping this vacancy open, in contravention of the regulations, in order to enable the subalterns, who were non-efficient at that date, to qualify.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddingtonshire): A vacancy is filled at once by the promotion of officers qualified at the date of such vacancy, except—(1) when a supernumerary officer is available for absorption within three months of the vacancy, and it is kept open for such three months, in accordance with the terms of the Royal Warrant. (2) When a vacancy occurs with date subsequent to the date of an examination for which the senior officer has presented himself, and it is kept open until the result of the examination is known. In the case alluded to in Question No. 23, the latter vacancy is being kept open for an officer due for absorption on the 16th July.

Railway Extension in Northern Nigeria.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, having regard to the assurance given by the Prime Minister to the deputation from the British Cotton Growing Association in regard to the provision of transport facilities in Northern Nigeria, he can state what steps the Government propose to take in order to hasten the provision of these facilities.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The Secretary of State desires me to say that, as a consequence of the speech delivered by the Prime Minister to the Deputation from the British Cotton Growing Association on May 17th, he deems it his duty to prepare a definite scheme of Nigerian railway extension for submission to the Cabinet. This scheme will be prepared in consultation with the Governor of Southern Nigeria and the High Commissioner of Northern Nigeria, who will both soon be in England.

New Hebrides Mixed Commission.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is intended to give the New Hebrides Mixed Commission power to negotiate fiscally with the Australian Governments.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am unable to give any information with regard to the provisions of the draft Convention respecting the New Hebrides recently drawn up by an Anglo-French Commission, as it is still under the consideration of the two Governments.

Indian Factories—Hours of Labour.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he has received the Reports called for from the local governments in India as to the proposed limitation of the hours of work in the textile factories of Bombay and neighbourhood; and, if so, can he state what steps have been decided on.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (MR. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): The answer is in the negative. The Local Governments are still actively engaged in the inquiry and are not yet in a position to report.

Imports of Spirituous Liquors into the Sudan.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will furnish or procure information showing in detail and as far as possible the places of origin and the quantities and values of spirituous liquors imported into the Sudan via Wadi Halfa during the several years 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, and 1905, supplementing the statements made in Lord Cromer's Annual Reports on Egypt and the Sudan to the effect that 250 tons (valued at £8,400), were imported in 1900, 241 tons in 1901, 326 tons in 1902, 561 tons (valued at £119,738), in 1904, and a quantity not stated but valued at £84,000 in 1905; and whether he is in a position to explain the increase in the quantity of spirits so imported.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): We have no information on the subject other than that contained in Lord Cromer's Reports, but Lord Cromer will be asked if he can give the further information asked for.

Spirituous Liquors for Uganda.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any, and, if so, what steps have been taken with reference to Lord Cromer's statements, in his Annual Reports on the finances, administration, and condition of Egypt and the Sudan, to the effect that in 1900 he had drawn Sir Reginald Wingate's attention to the large amount of spirits which seemed to have been imported into the Sudan [Cd. 1012], page 63, and that in 1904 Sir Reginald Wingate's attention had been drawn to the enormous increase in the quantities of spirits finding their way to Uganda via the White Nile, and that the sale of liquors in the Sudan should be carefully watched, and, if necessary, controlled [Cd. 2409], page 122.

SIR EDWARD GREY: From Lord Cromer's Annual Reports it is evident that this matter is receiving his careful attention. Inquiry will be made as to the precise answer to the hon. Member's Question.

Soudan Government and the Brussels Act of 1890.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will state what action has been taken, in accordance with Article 12 of the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement of 1899, in which the contracting parties undertake to pay special attention to the enforcement of the Brussels Act of 1890 prohibiting the importation or manufacture of spirituous liquors in the region of the zone where, on account of religious, or from other motives, the use of distilled liquors does not exist, or has not been developed.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Government of the Soudan have drawn up various regulations for controlling and licensing the import and sale of alcoholic liquors in their territory. These regulations have been modified and added to from time to time, and the matter is one which engages the constant attention of the Soudanese Government.

Chinese Customs Agreement.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government have accepted the note of the Wai-wu-pu repeating and reaffirming the text of the customs articles of the loan agreements of 1896 and 1898 as a satisfactory settlement of the Chinese customs question; and whether he will consider the desirability of pressing for this note being given the same Imperial force and currency as the Imperial edict of May 9th.

SIR EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Government regard the note of the

Wai-wu-pu respecting the Customs questions as satisfactory, and they are in communication with His Majesty's representative at Peking with regard to making public in China the assurances received.

Chinese Labour Cartoons.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the Chinese labour cartoons, issued by Radical agencies at the last general election, are being reproduced in a popular journal in Peking; and whether, in view of the fact that these pictorial inexactitudes are calculated to inflame Chinese resentment against British residents in China, and interfere with British trade with that country, he will represent to the Chinese Government the desirability of stopping the further circulation of these cartoons.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have noticed statements in the Press to this effect, but have no other information on the subject. His Majesty's *Chargé d'Affaires* at Peking will no doubt inform us if he considers any action necessary in order to protect British subjects or British trade from the dangers anticipated by the hon. Member.

The Congo.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can now lay on the Table Papers with reference to the Congo, including the Report of the Commission of Inquiry, and the text of the new Decree issued by the King of the Belgians and the manifesto which accomp nied its promulgation.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Papers promised will be laid before the end of the week. Copies of the publication containing the Report to the Sovereign of the Congo State on the results of the Reforms Commission, the text of the new Decrees and the manifesto, will be sent to the library with copies of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry.

The Aliens Act—Political Refugees.

*SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is customary at all or any of the immigration ports when an alien immigrant declares that he is a political refugee, for the immigration officers to demand any corroboration of such declaration; if so, what is the nature of the corroboration demanded, and to what extent is the mere statement of the immigrant accepted.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds W.): I have every reason to believe that the immigration officers take the utmost pains to carry out their duty in regard to political refugees, in accordance with the provisions of the Act and their instructions thereunder. It is a point on which corroboration or refutation are matters of extreme difficulty; and the Answer to the latter part of the Question must depend on the circumstances of each particular case.

Immigrants' Means.

*SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, when an immigrant alien produces £5 as evidence of means, any steps are taken to find out if such immigrant is the *bona fide* possessor of that sum, and that it has not been supplied to him merely for the purpose of his obtaining admission to this country.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, sir. The Immigration officers pay careful attention to this point, and if they have any reason to doubt that the money is the immigrant's *bona fide* property they do not accept it as proof of means.

Factory Act Prosecutions.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state the number of prosecutions instituted by factory inspectors during 1905 for non-compliance with the orders made by the Home Secretary under Section 116 of The Factory Act, 1901; and whether his official information shows that under the present arrangement of inspectors and assistant inspectors the orders can be rigidly enforced in all the Home industries to which they apply.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Five informations were laid against two firms during 1905 for breaches of orders requiring particulars in non-textile trades. It is obvious that considerable difficulty must attend the enforcement of the requirement in the case of outworkers, to whom it has been extended during the last four years, as the inspectors cannot follow each outworker to his home; but I am informed that in fact much has already been done during the short time the orders extending the requirement to outworkers have been in force to ensure that they receive the particulars prescribed.

Factory Act—Unvisited Factories.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many factories were unvisited during 1905; also whether he will give instructions that when the Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories is presented to the House it shall contain, in addition to the mileage travelled, the actual number of factories and workshops visited by each member of the inspectorate during the period covered by the Report.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The number of factories unvisited during 1905 was 23,258 out of a total of 104,666. I do not think it would be desirable to include in the Annual Report the number of places visited by each inspector. The mere number of places visited, without reference to the character of the works or nature of the district, would be misleading as an indication of the amount of work done.

Factory Department—Cost of Statistical Branch.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the annual cost of the statistical branch of the Factory Department.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The cost of the staff of the Factory Statistical Branch in the financial year 1905–6 was £1,460. I should add that a certain amount of clerical work connected with the administration of the Factory Act is done by this branch in addition to the collection and tabulation of statistics.

Factory Inspector's Report.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Deparment when the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1905 will be issued, and when the statistical Return of persons employed in workshops during 1901 is likely to be available; and when the volumes for 1903 and 1905 may be expected.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I hope that the Annual Report will be issued before the end of this month. It is already completed, but some time is unavoidably occupied in getting it through the press. As regards the second part of the question, considerable delay in the tabulation by the Factory Statistics Branch of the Returns which were called for in 1901, was caused by the work of preparing a new card register of all places under inspection, which had to be undertaken by the branch about the same time; and it was decided by my predecessor at the end of 1904 not to proceed further with the workshop portion of the Returns; but, instead, to give precedence to the workshop portion in the tabulation of the 1904 Returns which were called for at the beginning of 1905. This has been done, and a Return of persons employed in workshops will be published in the course of the present year. The Returns being triennial, no statistics will be published for 1903 or 1905.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON: Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake that this Report shall be issued in a reasonable time before the Vote for this Department is brought up for discussion.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I will do my best to secure that.

Wreck of the "Star of Hope."

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will cause an inquiry to be held into the circumstances attending the wreck of the trawler "Star of Hope," at Collieston, Aberdeenshire, on December 5th, and especially the delay of ten hours before any assistance was rendered to the wrecked vessel, during which time two of the crew were washed overboard and drowned, and a third died of exposure.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs)): The question of ordering a formal investigation into the circumstances attending the wreck of the "Star of Hope" in December last was very carefully considered, and it was concluded that no useful purpose was likely to be served by an inquiry. The vessel was engaged on behalf of the Scottish Fishery Board in working as near inshore as possible, and the casualty appeared to be due merely to an error of judgment not attributable to any person holding a certificate of competency. There appears to have been some delay in reporting the wreck to the Life Saving Apparatus Company at Collieston, and of this matter I understand the Admiralty have taken cognisance, but the company acted with promptitude as soon as the casualty was reported to them.

The Companies Acts Inquiry.

*SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Committee appointed more than a year ago to inquire into the Companies Acts has yet completed its deliberations; and whether he can state approximately the date when the Report on this subject may be expected.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am informed that the Report is already in draft, but an approximate day for its presentation cannot yet be fixed.

Post Office Mail Van Work.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he can state the result of his inquiries into the conditions under which contracts for mail van work are carried on.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The matter is still engaging my attention.

Postal Official's Pension.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Henley): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that John Simmonds, of Henley-on-Thames, who retired from the postal service on January 6th last, five and a half months ago, after thirty-nine and a quarter years continual employment, and with the maximum number of good conduct stripes, has not yet been able to ascertain from the postal authorities to what pension he is entitled; that for three months after his retirement no payment whatever was made to him; that then, after repeated applications, he received a sum of £10 on account; and that he has since been unable to obtain any further payment or any explanation of the delay; and whether, in view of the inconvenience caused to this man in being left so long without regular payment or acknowledgment of his claims, he will take steps to have the matter put right and to see that such delay does not occur again.

In putting the question the hon. Member complained that the word "inconvenience" had been substituted for "hardship." He asked whether Mr. Speaker considered that "hardship" was a disorderly expression.

*MR. SPEAKER: According to the information given to me, the Question was submitted to the hon. Member himself, and he fully agreed with the correction.

MR. MORRELL: I agreed under protest. May I ask whether it would not be better that Questions should be expressed in the Member's own language?

*MR. SPEAKER: If we were to admit all the expressions which are contained in Questions, I am afraid that a good many of them would be disorderly.

MR. MORRELL: Then I will put the question, and ask the Postmaster-General to read the word "hardship" into it.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I regret to find that there has been delay in obtaining the award of a pension in this case, pending the decision of a question which had been raised regarding the admission of the value of free quarters as a pensionable emolument. An advance was made as soon as an application for it was received, and I have directed that a further advance should be made at once, and that steps should be taken to avoid similar delay in future.

Irish Loan Fund Board.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Fermanagh I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it was the duty of the Loan Fund Board for Ireland to supervise and audit the accounts of the various loan funds; whether the Board by such audits discovered that various loan funds in county Fermanagh and elsewhere were charging excessive rates of interest and renewal fines, were making loans in excess of their powers, and otherwise going outside the Loan Funds Acts; whether he is aware that several of the loan funds in county Fermanagh have become insolvent and are unable to repay their debentures to people who lent their money on the faith that the accounts were audited by a Government Department; whether it is proposed to make any reparation to the debenture lenders for the neglect of the Loan Fund Board to properly supervise the accounts; and is he aware that the borrowers have in many cases become insolvent, and that very little could be recovered from them.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The Secretary of the Loan Fund Board informs me that the Board's inspector visits annually the office of each working society certified under the Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Act, 1843. It is his duty to check the society's accounts since the date of the last previous inspection, to examine the promissory notes which appear on the society's books, to check the cash balances to inquire concerning the management of the society, and to report to the Loan Fund Board the material facts learned by him during such visit. Each Loan Fund Society is bound under the Act to report periodically to the Loan Fund Board. From time to time the Loan Fund Inspector has reported irregularities, and the practice of the Board has been to require their prompt abandonment. The Committee of Inquiry appointed in 1896 reported that Loan Fund Societies in Fermanagh and elsewhere were charging excessive rates of interests and renewal fines. So far as this prevailed, it seems to have been the outcome of a mistaken interpretation of the Act, dating back to the year 1845. It is a fact that several Loan Fund Societies in Fermanagh are at present insolvent and unable to pay debentures to the holders. This is partly due to defects in the law of a technical character, which cause considerable difficulty and expense to the societies in recovering their debts. These defects were partially obviated by an Act of 1900, but many still remain, and the Irish Government have introduced a Bill to amend the Act of 1900. The Second Reading of this Bill has, however, been opposed by some of the hon. Member's political friends. The Government are not responsible for the administration of the Loan Fund Board, which is not a Government Department as stated in the Question.

Irish School Teachers.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can recommend the Commissioners of National Education to withdraw Rules 88 (b), 89 (a), and 94 III., in view of the fact that under these rules school teachers are absolutely prevented from attendance at any public ceremony, taking any part in the public life of the districts in which they reside, or from being members of committees dealing with such matters as education, under pain of withdrawal of salary.

MR. BRYCE: I understand from the Commissioners of National Education that they are willing to consider the rules referred to with a view to seeing whether they can be modified in some points, but that they hold it to be highly undesirable that school teachers should take an active part in political controversy or sit on public bodies, inasmuch as this would impair their usefulness by tending to bring them into conflict with sections of their neighbours and thereby to lessen the confidence and respect with which it is desirable that they should be regarded by the whole community. It would, moreover, prevent them from devoting their time to their scholastic duties. The matter is one within the discretion of the Commissioners.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): When will the modifications be announced?

MR. BRYCE: I have not said there would be any modifications. I stated that the Commissioners were prepared to consider if any were possible.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): Do these rules debar a teacher sitting on Education Committees?

MR. BRYCE: There are no Education Committees in Ireland.

MR. MURPHY: Is it not the fact a teacher is prevented going anywhere or doing anything under pain of dismissal by these rules?

MR. BRYCE: I do not think the rules are quite so harsh as that.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) asked when the Second Reading of the Labourers (Ireland) Bill would be taken.

MR. BRYCE said the Bill appeared on the Paper for the following day, and he had good hopes of reaching it early.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said the right hon. Gentleman's Answer suggested that it was not the intention of the Government to take the Education Bill on Wednesday. In the absence of the Prime Minister, he asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could give any forecast of the business of the House, which appeared to have been unexpectedly changed.

SIR EDWARD GREY said he understood it had been arranged that the Education Bill should not be taken on Wednesday, but a precise statement as to the business which would be taken could not be made in the absence of the Prime Minister. A statement would be made before the House rose.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether the right hon. Gentleman had ever known a case in which an interruption of the programme of business had not been accompanied by some definite statement as to what the alternative was. It was very inconvenient that Members should remain without the least idea what was to be put down until eleven o'clock that evening; and the Government ought not to place the House in such a position.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) asked whether it was the intention of the Government to withdraw the Education Bill.

SIR EDWARD GREY said he had expected that the Prime Minister would be present and that a full statement would be made as to business to be taken. In his absence, he could only say definitely that the Education Bill would not be taken to-morrow and that the Irish Labourers Bill would be the first order.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What will be taken on Friday? Will it be the Education Bill?

SIR EDWARD GREY said there would be ample time to make a statement with regard to Friday if the right hon. Gentleman would put a Question to-morrow.

A moment later the Prime Minister entered the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether it would be in order for the right hon. Gentleman to make a statement now by leave of the House.

*MR. SPEAKER said that, as public business had not yet begun, it would be in order for the right hon. Gentleman to do so.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs), having apologised for not being in his place before, said that, as already announced, the Education Bill would not be taken to-morrow. The first order would be the Labourers (Ireland) Bill, but he could not say positively what would be taken after that. On Thursday the Scotch Estimates would be taken. As to Friday, he could not say positively what would be taken. It might be Supply. On Monday the Education Bill would be resumed. With regard to a Question put to him by the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil yesterday, he was fully alive to the importance of the South African question and to the interest taken in the House in the Colonial Vote; but he must point out that they had already had a day and a half devoted to the Colonial Vote, and the Government were bound to give a fair amount of attention to other departments of the State which had not yet been touched. Subject to that general consideration, he fully appreciated the anxiety to have further discussion on South Africa, and he could assure the hon. Gentleman that it would be provided for in proper course.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) asked whether the Trade Disputes Bill would be taken as second order to-morrow.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The hon. Gentleman is always asking me about the Trade Disputes Bill, and that gives me the impression that he is suspicious that there is some desire to give the go-by to that Bill. I can assure him that there is no such desire. In due time it will be taken, but I do not think it will be convenient to take it as the second order to-morrow.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Will the right hon. Gentleman say that the second order to-morrow will not be a Bill of a controversial character? When the Goverment deliberately interrupt their announced programme and interpolate another Bill in the place of a Bill that was to have been discussed *de die in diem*, I think we are justified in asking that ample notice should be given of what is to be taken in its place. Controversial Bills, such as the Plural Voting Bill, for instance, should not be taken without full notice.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I can relieve the right hon. Gentleman's mind with regard to the Plural Voting Bill. It will not be taken to-morrow. But I think he is stretching his objection a little too far when he asks us to promise not to take any controversial Bills. We do not know yet whether any of our Bills are controversial or not, and in the circumstances I think it is too much to ask that we should avoid anything as to which there is serious difference of opinion. But I am anxious to meet the right hon. Gentleman, and we will arrange that the matters taken shall not be such as he would object to.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the Borough of St. George, Hanover Square, in the room of Colonel the hon. Heneage Legge (Chiltern Hundreds). (*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.*)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE, &c.

Ordered, that leave be given to the Standing Committee on Trade, &c., to sit during the Sitting of the House, To-morrow, for the consideration of the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill.—(*Mr. Kearley.*)

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Ellis William Davies, esquire, for the County of Carnarvon (South or Eifion Division).

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir **William Brampton Gurdon** reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill:—Mr. Shackelton; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. William Tyson Wilson.

Sir **William Brampton Gurdon** further reported from the Committee; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following Fifteen Members in respect of the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill:—Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. Bryce, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Gordon, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, Mr. Glendinning, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Thomas Smyth, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. Nannetti, Mr. Clancy, Mr. Harrington, and Mr. Roche.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

POLITICAL PENSIONS BILL.

"To repeal The Political Offices Pension Act, 1869," presented by Sir Howard Vincent; supported by Sir Frederick Carne Rasch; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 249.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 2:—

Major SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) said he desired to move the

Amendment which stood in his name, and in doing so to make it clearer than it was by adding some extra words. The intention of the Amendment was sufficiently plain. It was to give a right of appeal to owners or trustees of voluntary schools in the event of the local education authority behaving in a tyrannical and unjustifiable manner. The Amendment he desired to move was as follows —

"Where any existing voluntary school is not taken over by the local education authority the owners or trustees of such school may appeal to the Board of Education, and the Board shall then hold a local inquiry to decide the matter."

The words he wished to add were—

"And if in the opinion of the Board the local education authority had, under good and sufficient reason, failed to make any proposal and arrangement for the carrying on of such school as a provided school, the Board may require the local education authority to take over such school on such terms as the Board may determine."

This was simply an amplification of the suggestion he ventured to make to the right hon. Gentleman on the previous day. It had been pointed out that there was some anomaly in laying down the principle that the Bill desired, viz., that schools in which there was a sufficient preponderance of children should be continued as voluntary schools, while at the same time power was given under the clause to the local education authority to set at naught the expressed will of Government and Parliament. There was no question as to this anomalous position. The right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education, in dealing with the matter on the previous day, said this was unlikely to occur except in rare cases where the local education authority might be pig-headed and unjust, but he did not anticipate that it would arise frequently. He, however, would suggest that that was a position which the House of Commons had never taken up and never ought to take up. The machinery proposed by his Motion was that of local inquiry. In cases of water and drainage no one would stand up and say that they should interfere with local authorities, but matters of great principle, such as the liberty of conscience and the passionate desire of the people that their children should be educated in the faith to which they themselves belonged, were of such importance that they should not be delegated to subordinate authorities. The matter only required stating to show the absurdity of it. The right hon. Gentleman had stated the previous day that the proposal was a cowardly one. He could not reply to that because it would conflict with his respect for those who occupied the front benches, and, secondly, because the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had undoubtedly been distinguished for saying what he meant and meaning what he said. But for all that, he was bound to say he could not admit that it was a brave and courageous proposal to make it possible for education authorities to commit acts of oppression and wrong under Act of Parliament, nor did he think it was brave or courageous of Parliament to shelter itself behind those authorities. In matters of great moment, such as the one before them, Parliament must be supreme. It was impossible to delegate such questions to local education authorities, and he would urge upon the right hon. Gentleman that if he could not accept the Amendment in the exact form in which it was drawn up he would at least set out in substance a similar Amendment and embody it in the Bill. If they attempted to pass the Bill into law in its present form it would give local authorities the power of exercising bigotry and intolerance which would light a flame in the country which it would be hard to extinguish.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'manner,' to insert the words 'where any existing voluntary school is not taken over by the local education authority, owing to the authority having made no proposal or come to no arrangement under this section, the owners or trustees of such school may appeal to the Board of Education, and the Board shall then hold a local inquiry, and if, in the opinion of the Board, the local education authority has without good and sufficient reason failed to make any proposal or arrangement for carrying on such school as a provided school, the Board may require the local education authority to take over such school on such terms as the Board may determine."—(*Major Seely.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) wished to say a few words in support of the Amendment before the Government explained its position. He wished earnestly to appeal to Ministerialists not to close their minds upon the question without giving it full and fair consideration. Hon. Members who were present during the course of the interesting debate the previous day upon the Amendment of the hon. Member for Oxford University would remember the ground upon which exception was taken to that Amendment. All the speakers against the Amendment, with one exception, opposed it because it was an unreasonable and unqualified requirement to the local authority to take over all kinds of schools whether they were desirable or not. Illustrations were given of insanitary schools, of schools which had become useless, and of buildings which were unfit for the purposes of schools. It was asked whether the House of Commons were going to make a law whereby the local authority would be forced to take over such schools. Their intention was to insert some security in the Bill whereby the declared instructions of the Minister should be carried out. He contended there was never before in the history of the House a case where, a Bill of a highly contentious character, dealing with the conscience of the people, having been brought forward, Parliament had deliberately declined to put into the measure words which would indicate the intention of the House. In the present instance they were going to throw all the onus upon the local authorities. The thing was absolutely without precedent. The Amendment which had just been proposed by the hon. Member for the Abercromby Division of Liverpool removed every single objection brought forward in the debate the previous day upon the Amendment of the hon. Member for Oxford University, because if the present Amendment were inserted in the Bill the local authority could not be called upon to take over any school which in the opinion of the Board of Education was not a proper school to be taken over. The only effect the Amendment could possibly have would be to make local authorities carry out the Bill in accordance with the intentions of Parliament. The Amendment would come into force in those cases where the local authority was determined to have nothing to do with the voluntary schools. He would quote a case which he believed was a genuine one—he had the best authority for saying so, although he had not the actual speech with him—where the President of one of the greatest local authorities had declared it to be his intention, and the intention of the authority he represented, to use the option afforded by the Bill for the purpose of wiping out the voluntary schools. He hoped before the end of the debate to establish the veracity of the statement, but until then he did not think it was fair to give the name. It was, however, his deliberate conviction, based upon speeches he had read, that it was genuine. He believed the gentlemen who had made those speeches were absolutely honest in their convictions; they had declared that Clause 4 was an outrage upon the Nonconformists of the country, and that in accordance with the declared spirit of their pledges they would be justified in resorting to any measures allowed them within the scope of the Bill to defeat that clause. He made no charges against such gentlemen, but he would ask hon. Gentlemen opposite whether men like himself could fail to feel uneasy in the face of speeches of that character? It might be contended by the local authorities that under the Bill in districts where there was insufficient accommodation for the children in provided schools new schools must be built. That was an aspect of the question which had raised considerable alarm. Whatever the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education might say, there was a large body of opinion upon the Government Benches that the proper course under the Bill would be to build new schools all over the country, and the right hon. Gentleman must not blame him if such a course aroused anxiety in his mind. If that was the intention of the Government it was not the programme upon which the Liberal Members went to the great industrial community and secured the votes of the people. He could quote dozens of Liberals who pledged themselves to undo the injustice of the Act of 1902 and to protect the rights of voluntary, and especially Catholic schools. [Cries of "No, no."] Yes, it was quite true; he did not say that that was the intention of the majority of the Liberal Party, but a large section of them and many hon. Members in London gave most specific pledges to that effect. He appealed to the Committee to be honest in the matter. If it was their intention to pass a Bill which would destroy the voluntary schools of the country and force the children into the provided schools, let them say so, and not come forward, as the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education had done, and say it was their intention to let the voluntary schools go on as before and then insert into Clause 2 an option which would make it perfectly easy for any local authority so minded, without departing for one instant from the letter of the law, to obliterate all voluntary schools from the neighbourhood. That was the question they had to deal with, and no greater question could come before them. The Minister for Education had objected to the Amendment because, he said, it shifted the responsibility from the House of Commons on to his shoulders; but, after all, the Minister for Education was always responsible, and by shifting the responsibility on to the right hon. Gentleman's shoulders it must not be thought that they threw it off the House of Commons. On the contrary, they kept it in the House of Commons. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the idea of the clause was to leave perfect liberty to local authorities. He (Mr. Dillon) had already answered that, but he felt bound to enlarge upon it again. The right hon. Member's idea was against the whole principle of the constitution of the country. If they accepted his proposal they might as well do away with the Local Government Board whose purpose was to fetter and control and check the power of local authorities. That was the very principle of the whole political system under which they worked, and he asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he would push his idea to a logical issue. He had lived for two or three years in Western America, where the local bodies were masters of the situation. As a result they did just as they liked, and they could have taught the Hindoo religion had they pleased. They did exactly as they thought fit, without being responsible to either Parliament or a central authority, and they conducted their education upon their own lines. That was one system, but it was not the system we required in this country. If we adopted such a system, and allowed every local authority to have what educational system it pleased, we should find over the greater part of England a full-fledged denominational system, but we should also have various systems, which was undesirable. It was absurd, however, for local authorities to set up a claim of immunity from the central authority when the greater part of their expenses were paid by Government grants. The whole question was one of degree and how far they were going to push the clause. He would remind the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education that under the present system, and ever since the Act of 1870, the Board of Education had exercised control over education authorities, but supposing the education authorities had torn up Clause 14 of the Act of 1870 and had said, "We will teach the Church Catechism as we like," and had set the Board of Education at defiance, would Parliament have sat down under that? He contended that the present instance was exactly the same. What right had they to say to the authorities that they should not teach the Church Catechism if those authorities wished to do so? Again, supposing an authority were to say that they thought that education was rather a bad thing than a good one, that they had got too much of it and they therefore declined to put the ratepayers to any further expense for teaching that which took the people from the land and gave them too high a tone, who would be the authority to say, "But you must provide a place for the children even if it throws a fresh burden on the rates"? The whole thing was without principle, and the very same machinery which was used at the present time to compel local authorities to preserve Clause 14 of the Bill of 1870 could be used under the new Act to make them obey the letter of the law equally well. By having the clause in its present form a direct invitation was offered to local authorities to defy the intention of the Government and the House, and to obliterate, where public opinion required it, all voluntary schools. He was quite aware that it might be said that any proposal to put coercion upon local bodies would be unpopular, and some Liberals might look back to the days when they voted against the Act of 1902; but there was a difference in the selfish coercion Act of 1902 and the proposal now before the Committee. The proposal of the Act of 1902 was to coerce local authorities to act unjustly towards a large section of the people, but the proposal before them at the present time was one simply to put a check upon local bodies who would be inclined to oppress minorities. In view of these facts he most respectfully appealed to the Government to give the matter full consideration and, if they could, to introduce some such proposal, if not the exact words of the Amendment, into the Bill. As it was, they had words in Clause 2 which would make the proposals in Clauses 3 and 4 a mockery and a delusion.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) wished to point out the curious position they had arrived at. The moment the Bill was read a first time everyone from the Bishops of Durham and Manchester downwards said that the Government were guilty of an act of confiscation and robbery.

MR. DILLON: I did not say that.

DR. MACNAMARA explained that he was quoting the words of the Bishop of Manchester, and now, because they were afraid that their schools would not be taken over, they came there and complained. He had no objection to the denominational school as such. He got what education he possessed from a denominational school, and therefore he would be ungrateful if he said anything against that system of education; but he did strongly object to Parliament compelling any local authority to take over a dilapidated, insanitary, and unsound building. That was his whole case. He had previously quoted the report of the Sanitary Committee of the London County Council about the condition of some of these schools. The facts which they stated were true, not only in regard to London, but in regard to all great cities. That committee condemned a number of schools as bad in regard to drainage, lighting, and ventilation. The noble Lord opposite had said that the London County Council dealt with this matter, and that the committee reported, with prejudice and for partisan reasons. He thought that such a statement was a very wrong one in point of fact. He held no brief for the London County Council. God forbid! He thought that body should never have been compelled to take over education, but he was quite sure that the report of their committee was a very moderate one and made in the interest of the children attending the schools. If the law compelled a man to send his child to school, the law ought to see that that school was healthy, and he should resist to the bitter end any attempt to take over schools which were thoroughly unsound and unhealthy. If the Party opposite went the length of saying that they would have dogma even if it was associated with bad drains, in his judgment they were making a great mistake. His position was perfectly clear. Hon Members might have as much dogma as they could get into the limit of the capacity of a child, but first of all they ought to put their drains in order. If he had to choose between the Church Catechism with badly drained, badly lighted, and badly ventilated schools and a good building with Cowper-Templeism, his choice would be very simple: he would adopt the latter. An hon. Member had taunted him with the fact that if these schools were not taken over a good many teachers in voluntary schools would be thrown out of employment. He was well aware of that fact, but he did not desire, and he was sure elementary school teachers did not desire, that their interests should be considered to the detriment of the children. The Government had done something to meet this contingency in Clause 7, and he would ask them not only to carry that clause but to strengthen it in the interest of the teachers. He had the highest authority in that House, viz., that of the Minister for Education, for saying that there might be local authorities who would be pig-headed about this matter, but his position was, that if there was a thoroughly sound voluntary school which was needed for the school accommodation of the locality, and the buildings of which were in good condition, he did not think that school ought to be prejudiced under Clause 2, which dealt with the terms of transfer, simply because it was a voluntary school. But he thought the local authorities had no occasion to take over insanitary and ill found schools because they were voluntary. There should, however, be no prejudice against those voluntary schools which were well found, well built, well drained, and well lighted. They all wanted to prevent a local authority saying that they would not treat with a voluntary school because it was a voluntary school, and perhaps the President of the Board of Education could by some means secure that. It was, he recognised, a somewhat difficult matter, but if the President of the Board of Education could consider it between now and the Report Stage, which he hoped would come soon, he for one would give him all the support he could if he brought forward a proposal on the subject.

*SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) did not think the argument with which his hon. friend who had just sat down commenced his speech was worthy of him. He started by accusing hon. Members on the Opposition side with inconsistency because they stated when the Bill was first sprung upon the public that it was a measure of confiscation and of robbery, and they now keenly scrutinised the terms under which the schools were to be taken over. For his part he thought at the time that the Bill was one of confiscation and robbery, and he thought so still, but the hon. Gentleman seemed entirely to lose sight of the fact that since they said these things Clause 1 had been passed. That entirely altered the situation, and although he thought the Bill was confiscatory and robbed the voluntary schools, still, that clause having been adopted, they were entitled to attempt to get as large a modicum of justice from Ministerialists and the Government as they could obtain. He did not therefore see why, if they supported his hon. friend's Amendment, they were in the least degree inconsistent because they were trying to get a remnant of justice out of the measure. As to the Amendment, the speech of the hon. Member for East Mayo seemed to him to be conclusive and unanswerable, and little more remained to be said. They had heard a good deal about the confidence they ought to repose in the local authorities, and he shared that confidence with the right hon. and hon. Gentlemen who had spoken. But they must remember that they were placing upon local authorities a wholly new sort of responsibility. Right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite, whether they meant it or not, were throwing the whole country into a great and burning religious controversy, and they were going to ask the local authority—to compel them, indeed—to take an active part in that controversy. It was all very well to say that they were to have confidence in the local authorities, but which hon. Gentlemen could say what would be the action of the local authorities when they came to decide these burning questions of difference between religious denominations? Surely they had seen enough of religious bitterness and of religious intolerance lately to cause them grave doubts as to what that action would be. Hon. Members would remember the burning religious controversy which took place two years ago in Scotland. They all knew that if it had been possible the parties to that controversy would have been at each others' throats and would have marched against one another in open warfare if they had dared to do so. Were they justified in the belief that the sense of justice and of common sense which characterised our local authorities at ordinary times would be maintained under extraordinary circumstances such as these? Unless there was a right of appeal it was possible that grave injustice would be done. Let them take the case of a village in which there might be a Roman Catholic denominational school which the local authority refused to take over on the ground that it was not in a sanitary condition—had not wooden block floors or something of that sort—any excuse would suffice. If that school were not taken over all the children belonging to it would be compelled to go to the schools of other denominations against the most sacred desires of their parents. In the same district there might be a Protestant school which was very little, if any, better than the Roman Catholic school which the local authority had refused to take over. The Protestant school might be taken over and the children allowed to remain in it. This arbitrary differentiation could not be justified under any principle of justice or fair play. He hoped the reply of the Minister for Education in regard to this appeal would be favourable.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said he could assure the Committee that the desire of the Government was and always had been that as many as possible of the properly equipped voluntary schools of the country should be transferred to the local authorities, and it had never entered into their heads as part of their scheme that the local authorities should decline to take over such schools as were properly equipped and fitted to form part of the national system of education. He agreed, and he felt it yesterday, that perhaps on paper, and even in substance, there was a difficult kind of gap between Clauses 1 and 2 and Clauses 3 and 4, which contained, as the Government thought, valuable conditions, but which were made dependent by Clauses 1 and 2 upon the local authority determining to take over those schools. Therefore some difficulty might arise, and there might be a kind of gap between the facility clauses and the other clauses of the Bill. He was not opposed, therefore, to any well-considered plan which might be suggested whereby this difficulty might be got over. He assured the Committee that the obstacle did not arise from any want of will on the part of the Government. But the Committee were bound to take into consideration the fact that this Amendment of the hon. and gallant Member put a kind of compulsion on a local education authority to acquire any particular school where the Board of Education were of opinion that a bargain should be struck. He thought it followed, therefore, from this, that if the local education authority was to be obliged to acquire such a voluntary school if the Board of Education thought that the terms upon which it was offered were reasonable and the school was well equipped, there should also be imposed the corresponding obligation on the owners of existing voluntary schools to transfer their schools to the local authority if the Board of Education correspondingly were of opinion that it was desirable that they should, and if the terms offered were reasonable and proper. Without wishing to confine himself to any particular words, he read this simply as indicating what, in his opinion, would be a fair settlement of the question on these lines—

"If either the local education authority refuses to take a schoolhouse which is offered to them, or the owners refuse to accept the offer of the local education authority to take their schoolhouse under this section, the owners of the schoolhouse or the local education authority may appeal to the Board of Education, and the Board may, if they think fit, after holding a local public inquiry, there being no reasonable ground for refusal, by order require a transfer to be made on such terms as are contained in the order, which shall take effect as if an arrangement were made under this section."

An arrangement of that kind would put both parties in a fair position. It would enable the local education authority to acquire such schools as were desirable, and, on the other hand, it would secure that the owners of voluntary schools should be entitled, if the Board thought that the proposals were reasonable, to require that they should be taken over. Although he did not pledge himself to the words he had read, he was prepared to accept a proposal of that kind; and he thought that it would be a reasonable guarantee that the rights of the voluntary schools would be properly considered. The House of Commons ought to indicate to the Minister for Education the kind of lines on which he ought to act in this matter. He could assure his hon. friend that in the course of his administrative capacity there had been occasions when he had to consider the rights of voluntary schools under the Act of 1902; and there was no appeal in the clear form of hideous bigotry or inflamed passion or animated desire to get rid of the voluntary schools. The things presented themselves for consideration enmeshed in circumstances; and where a local education authority desired to suppress a Roman Catholic school, for example, they did not come to the Board of Education and say, "We do not want to keep a Roman Catholic school." They said, "We have already got in the area national schools of our own where there is plenty of accommodation for these children, where they will get equally good, even better secular education; and therefore, in the interests of the ratepayers, you ought to get rid of a redundant school." That was the way in which the matter had been presented to him over and over again; and the only reason for the denominational school was that the parents of the children desired that the children should continue to receive in a Roman Catholic school, which perhaps they had largely helped to build, a continuance of instruction under the denominational system. In deciding in favour of the continued existence of a denominational school in the area, where there was sufficient accommodation in the national schools, he had decided more than once in favour of the denominational school, and he had done so boldly because he was in favour of the denominational school. But it ought to be made clear by the House on what principles the Board of Education were to act in matters of this kind, and it ought not to be left to the predilections or predisposition of individual and successive Ministers of Education. He had never shown any intention to share his duties in this matter; but in coming to his decisions he did not get any assistance whatever from the Act of 1902, because that measure required him to take into consideration circumstances which obviously must be inconsistent—namely, the wishes of the parents and the pecuniary interests of the ratepayer. Then he had to consider the secular efficiency of education, and this was pretty evenly balanced between the two. He confessed that he was largely affected always by personal sympathy and consideration for the class of children whose interests were served by the school, and he did not think that this was a satisfactory plan. Parliament ought to lay down that it was of opinion that a denominational school should be maintained, if it was a properly equipped school, even although it was numerically redundant in the sense that accommodation could easily be found within the same school area for the children resident in it; if they chose to give up their religious beliefs and to go to an ordinary council school, the House of Commons ought to say so, the law ought to say so; and it ought not to be left, as now, to the personal predilection of an individual to settle one way or the other. With regard to the Amendment of the hon. and gallant Member, he had no objection whatever to the Board of Education assuming this very responsible and difficult task, though it would require much consideration as to the terms in which it should be embodied. But the clause which might be hereafter brought up on the Report stage should be framed on the principle of reciprocal obligations, that the local authority should be bound to acquire in the same way as the owners of the voluntary schools should be bound to transfer.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN (Birmingham, W.) said that the Committee would recognise the extreme importance of the question it was now considering, and not less the importance of the speech just delivered by the right hon. Gentleman. He understood that speech to be conciliatory in intention, and it certainly admitted a great deal of what the Opposition had been urging. The Bill was a most complicated measure, and it was extremely difficult at a moment's notice to discover exactly what would be the effect of the change proposed; but he recognised what he believed to be the intention of the Minister for Education, and he thought that the right hon. Gentleman had considerably cleared the ground for further discussion. He thought that the speech of the right hon. Gentleman had helped the Opposition and the Government materially to understand one another There were important circumstances on which they all agreed. He was inclined to agree in substance with the hon. Member for North Camberwell, who said that they did not wish to take over insanitary schools. Did anyone wish to do so? Had anyone ever suggested this? [Cries of "Yes" and "No."] Most certainly not, as far as his experience of the debate was concerned. The leader of the Opposition himself proposed an Amendment to make it absolutely clear that nothing of the kind was intended, and he proposed also to make it clear that the option of the local authority extended to the rejection of a school against which there was a sanitary objection. So far he believed that the House were unanimous. The second statement of the hon. Member was that in respect of a school against which there was nothing to be said as to its efficiency, the character of the buildings, and so on, no local authority should be allowed on its mere motion to refuse to take over the school on other and less reasonable grounds. He was inclined to think that for the first time the Government, as represented by the Minister for Education, had agreed to that. They also intended to make it clear in the Bill that in every case where a voluntary school wished to transfer itself, and was a fit, efficient, adequate school, it should be able to go to some impartial authority, and that the power of rejection should not rest with the local authority. The right hon. Gentleman put forward his proposal in a conciliatory tone and as a concession. It was no concession at all, he thought. It was a very important question whether it was a concession or not, because if it were a concession then perhaps they were called upon to make some concession on their side. They met a concession by a concession. They met a conciliatory spirit by a conciliatory spirit. If the latest proposal of the right hon. Gentleman gave some great concession which was not in the original intention of the Government they must try to meet the Government. If, on the other hand, the right hon. Gentleman had given them nothing, they should consider the matter in a very different spirit. By his present proposal the right hon. Gentleman said he was going to give the power of compelling the local authority, and in return he was to have the power of compelling the voluntary schools, whether under trust or not, and private owners who had retained the property in their own hands, to come in on terms which the Education Department might prescribe. Was that a concession? Now, in his judgment there might be an extremely important point of order to be settled here, as to which it might be wise to have the opinion of Mr. Speaker. There was no rule more clear in the proceedings of the House than that a Bill must be on Second Reading and in Committee and subsequent stages the Bill as brought in, subject, of course, to Amendments openly made in Committee of the House. He had known a Bill carried as far as Second Reading, and in Committee an appeal made to Mr. Speaker, pointing out a divergence between the Bill as expounded by the Minister introducing it on the First Reading and the Bill as produced, and thereupon Mr. Speaker had held that the Bill must be dropped and a new Bill brought in.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman give the reference to such a case?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he remembered such a case, and, if necessary, he would find the reference. And it stood to reason. After all, if there was not a precedent they ought to make one, always supposing a proper case arose. He might be mistaken in thinking this came within that well-understood rule and practice of Parliament, and, if so, his observation, of course, fell to the ground. Now, the way the Government intended to deal with this matter was shown in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman in introducing the Bill. He would read from *Hansard*, in which the speech had been corrected by the right hon. Gentleman, and, therefore, must be taken as verbally correct. In the old proposal the appeal against the local authority was taken to the Commission, and the right hon. Gentleman said—

> "If they (that is, the Commission) are of opinion that the best mode of giving effect to the trust is to allow the local education authority to use the schoolhouse for the purpose of a public elementary school they"—the Commission—"may by the scheme require the local education authority to apply such conditions as to payment or otherwise, not being inconsistent with this Act, as they think just."

That was what the right hon. Gentleman quoted as being in the Bill. Now, it was not in the Bill. Since the right hon. Gentleman introduced it this had been taken out of the Bill, and that raised a very serious point of order. Section 2 (b) of Clause 8 read as follows—

> "If they"—that is, the Commission—"are of opinion that the use of the schoolhouse for the purpose of a public elementary school by the local education authority in accordance with this Act, is the best mode of giving effect to the trusts, they may by the scheme make provision for the purpose, subject to such conditions, if any, as to payment or othe matters"—

Not, as might be required by the order or by the Commission, as appeared to have been the original intention, but—

> "As may be agreed to by the local education authority, and as the Commission think just."

That was to say, in the Bill the whole option was still left to the local education authority. The Commission had no power, as was intended to be given to them according to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, to make orders as against the local education authority. The Opposition said "Give us your original Bill. Give us those powers to the Commission to revise the decision of the local authority and to require them to take over a school where the requirement is reasonable." Personally, on the whole, he preferred the judicial authority of an impartial tribunal to any decision—which might vary with different Governments—of a Government Department. At the same time the proposal was the same as far as the power over the local authoritiy was concerned. But the Government were only putting back the Bill where it was at first. There was no concession in that. It was an afterthought to claim, as a return for a so-called concession, these extra powers over the owners of voluntary schools. The Government had been proved by their own showing to have been inconsistent with their intentions. They had been inconsistent with their declarations at an earlier stage of the Bill, and they were certainly inconsistent with their intentions. The Government made themselves consistent; they did what they promised to do, and then they asked for a reward! They on the Opposition side accepted their decision that they would be in this matter consistent, but they denied altogether their right to have something entirely new, which was never mentioned in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman in introducing the Bill, and which was clearly open to a great number of serious objections. It certainly involved an interference with private property which might be justified, but at all events some justification was necessary. The Government had to show that those who built those schools had placed themselves in a position in which it was necessary to interfere with them in this arbitrary way, and to prevent them dealing as they would otherwise wish to do with property which was undoubtedly theirs. While they might be grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for conceding a right of appeal to the Education Department, he had shown no reason, as he thought, why he should couple that with a new demand. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to suggest that the Committee should accept his statement as sufficient for the present, upon the promise that at a later stage he would do something in the nature of the paragraph which he read out. The Committee agreed that something ought to be done, and they would be very unwise if they accepted that offer. They ought not to leave the Committee stage without getting something inserted in the Bill. It would, of course, be open to reconsideration. He quite agreed with the Minister for Education that if an Amendment such as that of the hon. and gallant Gentleman were hastily introduced, it might, on further consideration, have to be again amended and improved. That was true, but let them establish the principle on the Committee stage, leaving the Report stage for the amending and improving. He hoped that some means would be found of obtaining, during the Committee stage, a full acceptance of the principle for which they had been contending.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said he was anxious to address the Committee upon the matter under discussion, but the spirit of his remarks would be entirely different from that of the speech just delivered. So far as the Irish Party were concerned—and they were vitally concerned in the consideration of this matter—they appreciated fully the spirit in which the Minister for Education had addressed himself to the point at issue, and they certainly accepted his speech as a concession. The right hon. Gentlemen the Member for West Birmingham had contended that in granting a right of appeal to both sides—for that was the promise—the Minister for Education had made no concession. But Clause 8 provided a right of appeal to only one side, the initiative being confined entirely to the local education authority. Further, the right hon. Gentleman seemed to be of opinion that an appeal in all cases to the proposed judicial body would be better than to the Board of Education. He (Mr. Redmond) differed entirely from that view. In such matters as were under discussion, it would be far better to have a right of appeal to the Board of Education represented in Parliament by a Minister responsible to Parliament, and whose action would be open to criticism in this House. Yesterday he and his colleagues found themselves in a position of very great difficulty and embarrassment; they felt bound to vote in favour of an Amendment moved by the hon. Baronet the Member for Oxford University, although that Amendment did not accurately represent their view. It went far beyond their view. They had never held that the local education authority should be subject to compulsion to accept the insanitary and dilapidated schools described by the hon. Member for North Camberwell.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University): The hon. Member is misrepresenting the character of my Amendment. I said again and again that the Board of Education had ample power to secure that local authorities should not be required to accept insanitary schools, and that I trusted they would exercise that power to the full.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he was not attempting to quote the hon. Baronet's words; he readily admitted that his words were inconsistent with his

Amendment. But although the Amendment was wider than they desired, it was the only opportunity he and his friends had of making a protest. Their position in the matter was well known. They had been told that under Clauses 3 and 4—especially Clause 4—there would be provisions which would really safeguard the interests of the schools with which they were particularly concerned. They had been anxiously waiting for the discussion of Clause 4 and for some indication as to how that clause would be altered and extended so as really to meet the case. Yesterday they had to face a new situation. They found themselves confronted with a provision in the Bill which, if carried as it stood, would make Clause 4 a sham and a delusion, and would prevent the carrying out of the promise of the Minister for Education that Clause 4 would not be illusory or a fraud. If Clause 2 were passed as it stood, Clause 4 would, in theory at any rate, be delusive and fraudulent, because it would be possible under the operation of Clause 2 for the local authority by simply wiping out the schools to prevent Clause 4 ever coming into operation. A case was made out for some alteration in the clause, so that there should be at any rate a right of appeal from an unreasonable and pig-headed local authority, which desired to wipe out of existence an efficient, well-equipped, sanitary school, simply because it was a denominational school. Yesterday, unfortunately, they did not succeed in making an impression upon the Government. To-day, however, they had succeeded, and he desired to dissociate himself altogether from the statement made by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham that there had been no concession. He desired to acknowledge not only the spirit of conciliation of the Minister for Education, but the substance of the concession which he had made. The right hon. Gentleman had coupled a condition with that concession. He had said that the compulsion must not be one sided, that if there was to be compulsion as against the local authority there must be compulsion against the owners. He (Mr. Redmond) confessed he did not consider that much of a concession to ask from them, because there was undoubtedly compulsion on the owners at present under Clause 8 so far as trust schools were concerned, and with regard to privately owned schools there was the compulsion of the liability to be starved out. He did not therefore consider the condition a very hard one, and he did not make any objection. The right hon. Member for West Birmingham had advised the Committee there and then to settle the words and put them into the Bill, but he differed altogether from that advice. He trusted the Minister for Education in the matter and had confidence in the pledge he had given. He was perfectly certain that nothing which happened in the discussion would induce him to modify or evade the pledge he had given. Farther than that, it was very risky for them to put there and then into the Bill an entirely new form of words which no one had seen in print. It would be far more reasonable for the Minister to bring up well considered words on the Report stage when they had had an opportunity of considering them. He confessed that until he saw exactly the form in which Clauses 3 and 4 would emerge from discussion in Committee he was not able to offer an opinion of any value whatever as to the proposal which had now been tentatively put before the Committee. It would be far better for them to get to the discussion of Clauses 3 and 4, and to see whether they could come to an arrangement which would enable those who represented Roman Catholic day schools to do what they were most anxious to do, which was not only to withdraw their opposition—and he thought everyone would admit that up to the present their opposition had been moderate and reasonable—but to support the Bill. That was all he had to say. His advice was exactly opposite to that of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham. He advised the hon. and gallant Gentlemen to withdraw his Amendment and to rest satisfied with having obtained a considerable concession. He hoped that what had occurred that afternoon might be an omen of what would come in the future, and that this controversy which threatened them with such lamentable consequences, not only to the interests of education and religion but also to the future of politics and of political parties in the country, might be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, and that they might be found able, as they were anxious, to join with the great body of Nonconformists in passing a measure which, while safeguarding the real interests and religious rights of the minority they represented, would at the same time remove the injustice which had been inflicted upon Nonconformists.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) desired to put one or two questions in reference to the important and interesting statement of the Minister for Education. He did not know whether to interpret the speech of the Leader of the Irish Party as indicating that there was any understanding—["No"] then it was merely the expression of a pious hope that in Clauses 3 and 4 the Government would make important concessions which would not only satisfy one section, at all events, of those interested in denominational education, but convert those opponents of the Bill into warm friends and supporters. For his part he could not but believe that any concession which really satisfied the desires of those interested in denominational education would be received with satisfaction by all who were anxious to keep alive the possibility, at all events, of something more than Cowper-Temple teaching being given in the schools. As regarded the proposal of the Minister for Education, he understood that the intention was to bring forward a new clause. ["No."] That was what the right hon. Gentleman had stated—that, though naturally he did not pledge himself to the words, he did intend to bring forward a new clause roughly on the lines of the words he read out. But would that be consistent with the clause the Committee were now asked to pass as it stood? Not having the words before him, and being unable, therefore, to compare them with the wording of Clause 2, he was unable to give an opinion of any value on the point Would that be consistent with the clause he now asked the Committee to pass in its present shape? He had not seen the words, but certainly his impression was that, if the present clause were passed without modifications, it would hardly be in the power of the right hon. Gentleman to bring in a separate clause of such a nature.

MR. BIRRELL said it would be an Amendment on Report, not in Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman used another phrase; he said on Report or "elsewhere."

MR. BIRRELL: I did not mean anything by that.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it would not have been a criminal action on the part of the right hon. Gentleman. He now understood that the Government pledged themselves to bring in their proposal in this House on the Report stage, and probably in the form of a new clause.

MR. BIRRELL: As an Amendment to this clause.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether the right hon. Gentleman had considered the relations between the promised Amendment and Clause 8 (power to obtain schemes with respect to voluntary school buildings held under trust). He could not see where Clause 8 came in if the proposal held good.

MR. BIRRELL said that had been in his mind when he said he could not pledge himself in any way to the language. He had felt that Clause 8 was very much mixed up in it, and that the new proposal might have some effect on that clause. Clause 8 ought to be considered very carefully in connexion with this matter.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said no doubt the right hon. Gentleman was right, but he himself thought that Clause 8 would be profoundly modified—he should have said entirely dropped.

MR. BIRRELL: No.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR hoped the Government would put them in full possession of their view before they came to discuss Clause 8.

MR. BIRRELL assented.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the grievance of which the hon. and gallant Member the mover of the Amendment complained was that it was left to the local authority to decide whether a school should be taken over, and that therefore there was no security that facilities for denominational education would be retained in every district as promised. But what had that got to do with the other half of the proposal of the Government, that there should be a compulsory appropriation of all the voluntary schools, whether privately owned or under trust? The hon. and learned Member for Waterford had told them that perhaps the great majority of these schools were already under compulsion, and would be obliged to go to the local authority whether they liked it or not. But there were other schools which were not in that category; and he was unable to see why the Government should go further than the absolute substance of the Amendment now before them, whose object was to bring the Bill into conformity with the Government's promises. He failed to see why the carrying out of that admirable purpose should carry with it so controversial an addendum. It seemed to him a wholly illogical and impossible proposal, and he did not think it was one his friends would assent to without strenuous resistance. It had no connection, sentimental, logical, practical, or administrative, with the broad issue now before the Committee, which was that they should not, by leaving an undue latitude to the local authorities, enable them if they so willed to destroy all opportunities of denominational education in their area. That was an obvious grievance, and that he understood the Government desired to meet. Why then should they associate it with a wholly different and alien proposal which added a fresh element of controversy to the Bill?

Mr. WYNDHAM (Dover) said the Minister for Education had twice referred to a new clause. Had he made up his mind that the proposal of the Government would be in the form of a new clause? A great deal depended on that. Was the new clause to be introduced on the Committee stage?

Mr. BIRRELL: It will be a new clause in the Bill.

Mr. WYNDHAM asked whether they were to discuss the other portions of the Bill while still in the dark in regard to the terms of the new clause.

Mr. BIRRELL: It will be on the Paper.

Mr. WYNDHAM: You will put down the new clause in anticipation of the Report stage.

Mr. BIRRELL was understood to assent.

Major SEELY said he regarded the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman as a real concession. He believed it was necessary in order to carry out the pledge which had been given, but it was nevertheless a concession. He entirely disagreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London who said this was an alien proposal. He entirely agreed that there should be a reciprocal obligation, and if his right hon. friend would tell the Committee that he would bring up on the Report stage words similar to those used, with the addition of words providing for a reciprocal obligation, he would be most happy to withdraw the Amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Gentleman withdraw the Amendment?

Major SEELY said he wished to give his right hon. friend an opportunity of stating what he had not yet done. He asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the Committee that the Amendment be withdrawn? [Cries of "No."]

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) said he desired to say a few words not in any spirit hostile to the Government, and certainly not in any spirit hostile to the hon. Members representing Ireland. He desired to enter his caveat at the present moment against the assumption made on the other side that there had been some concession unconditionally given by the Minister for Education. He understood the right hon. Gentleman to suggest a sort of compromise as to the point raised by the hon. and gallant Member for the Abercromby Division. The right hon. Gentleman had employed a form of words which contained two sets of proposals. The so-called concession already seized upon by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London was conditional on the second part of the proposal of the Minister for Education, namely, that there should be an agreement to put compulsion on the owners of voluntary schools just as compulsion was being put on the other side. And that, as he understood, was not the view taken by him. He said, "We take your concessions, but we won't give anything in return for them." Upon the merits of that matter, he reserved his own opinion; but he asked the Government to say that they would not concede what had been demanded of them without any concession being made by the other party. He entirely agreed with the very moderate, clear, and statesmanlike speech of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford. They had been discussing Clauses 3 and 4 over and over again. These clauses contained what the Government proposed to be the provisions for the voluntary schools which were to be continued as denominational schools. When they came to Clause 4, he was quite willing that that clause should be made real. He did not mean by that that the clause should be made mandatory. He would not discuss that clause until the proper time came. But he desired before this Amendment was withdrawn to point out what the position actually was. The proposal in the Amendment really was, to put it in plain words, that the local educational authorities should be compelled to take over all sanitary and structurally efficient denominational schools and support them for ever. But, if not, what was the test to be? Was his right hon. friend the Minister for Education to ask himself whether there ought to be a strictly denominational school in that neighbourhood, or not? There were two classes of schools with which this Amendment dealt. Of course, they were all denominational schools. First of all, there were the schools in the single school areas. And secondly, there were the schools in localities where two kinds of schools existed and where those two kinds of schools might not be necessary. Did his right hon. friend propose that in a single school area, where a school was structurally fit, the local authority must maintain that school, although it was unnecessary, simply because it was of a denominational character? [OPPOSITION cries of "Yes."] That, of course, was What would please hon. Gentlemen opposite. But then they would revert to the state of things which now existed. what he said was, that it ought to be the intention of the Government that in single school areas no local education authority should be obliged to take over a school on the terms of this Bill at all. Did his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade, as a Member of the Government, propose that where there was only one school, and that a Church of England School, the local education authority should be bound to take over that school on five days of the week, but allowing the full control of the school for all other times to be in the hands of the denomination? As regarded the second class of schools, did the Government propose to say that where they had a small denominational school and where the locality was amply provided with schools otherwise, nevertheless because that denominational school was structurally fit, the local education authority should be bound to take over that denominational school and make arrangements to keep it in good repair for ever? If the Government had really made the concession which was stated by the Member for the City of London, then the Amendment of his hon. and gallant friend had placed the Government in a position of great difficulty, because they would never get a majority of the Committee behind them.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said he thought that the speech to which they had just listened was very illuminating. It showed what was the spirit of a certain number of Members in regard to this Bill. The hon. and learned Member asked, "Did the Government really mean that an efficient and properly constructed school in a single area was to be taken over compulsorily, and conducted under Clause 3?" The hon. and learned Member regarded that as a monstrous proposal. He confessed that it was really monstrous from the other point of view—that an hon. and learned Member should get up and tell the Committee that to compel the local authority to take over a school on Clause 3 conditions was a great outrage on those who were not members of the denomination by which the school was constructed. That was a revelation to some of them as to the position taken up by certain hon. Members. From what the Minister for Education had told the Committee he understood that Clause 3 was to be a compulsory clause; but it was quite true that some Members on that side of the House were filled with misgiving that the local education authorities would not take over the denominational schools, and would even build other schools. He was still more amazed at the hon. and learned Gentleman's attitude towards Clause 4.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said he wanted to make it quite clear that he had stated that he would be quite out of order in discussing Clause 4.

LORD R. CECIL said that the hon. and learned Member had stated that the Government would not have a majority in the Committee at their back if they proposed that the local education authorities should be compelled to take over those schools which were on the Clause 4 scale.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: No.

LORD R. CECIL said he was glad to hear that from the hon. and learned Member. Perhaps his hearing was defective. He desired to say a word or two about the attitude of the Government and the concession which they proposed to offer. It had been said that the concession which the Government offered must be met by a concession from the other side; and there seemed to be an idea that the two dealt with the same class of points. But if looked at closely they were quite distinct—the one had nothing to do with the other. The object of compelling the local authorities to take over the schools was to give some security that the denominational teaching under the Bill would be effective. The object of compelling private owners to hand over their school had nothing to do with denominational teaching. He did not know why the Government desired to have nothing to do with denominational education. He knew that there were many private owners of denominational schools who would regard it as a very serious grievance if they were compelled to hand over their schools to the local education authority, and if the general frame of the Bill was to be maintained. He could well see that the proposal in the Bill would be regarded as a very serious breach of the fairness with which this House had always regarded the rights of property. He could only say that he associated himself with the right hon. the Leader of the Opposition in that he could not hold out the slightest hope to the Minister for Education that this clause would be accepted without the strongest opposition.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) hoped the Amendment would be rejected. He was one of the moderate Members of the House who had done nothing but the humble and necessary work of voting for the Government Bill. Between 300 and 400 Members had with poor, dumb mouths voted for the Bill exactly as it stood. Now, what was the reward they got? It was that the right hon. Gentleman, instead of thanking these Members for keeping silence, was going to give their case away to those who made a row. It seemed to him, under the circumstances, that it was high time that those who supported the Government should make a row, and if they were to be thrown over he did not think the Government Bill would get through. His supporters in Lincolnshire would be glad the Bill did not get through if it was to be modified in the sense proposed. The proposal was that there should be compulsion, and that if the local authority, for good reasons or bad reasons, decided that it would not take over a particular school there should be a reference to the Board of Education. There might be 14,000 such references, and did the President of the Board of Education contemplate with joy and delight the prospect of 14,000 references being made to him. Some of his constituents had heard with delight that they would not be compelled to take over these old schools. They wanted to erect schools of their own. The effect of the Amendment was far-reaching and would entirely prevent that. These schools would be forced upon them. The hon. Gentlemen who represented the Opposition were exceedingly desirous to have their schools confiscated. The Bill was a local option Bill, but it ceased to be that if the local education authority was to have its wishes overridden by a Department. The men on these local authorities were greatly respected and were of substance and experience, and the whole point of the Bill was that the decision should rest with these men. If the President of the Board of Education gave way on Clause 2, he would also have to give way on Clauses 3 and 4, and the Bill would be transformed. If, by the aid of hon. Members opposite the Bill was run through the House like the Bill of 1870, it would destroy the Liberal Party, as that Bill did. He dared say hon. Gentlemen opposite viewed that contingency with great complacency.

But he hoped the Committee would reject this Amendment and all other Amendments of the same character. If they did that they would secure a consistent Bill.

*MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton) said one observation made by the last speaker which evoked loud cheers from the Ministerialists, was that Members of the Opposition were anxious to have their schools confiscated. He could assure the hon. Member that they would much rather have them left in their present position, but if they were to be taken over, they would not assent to the closing of the only avenue which gave them facilities for denominational education. If the Government were determined to take the schools it was idle to taunt the owners because they insisted on such facilities being afforded. The speeches made by the hon. Member for Mid. Glamorgan and the Member for Sleaford indicated that there was great discontent with the concession made by the Government on the part of Ministerialists, because it deprived local authorities of the power of excluding those facilities under Clauses 3 and 4 which were the only means of preserving the denominational character of the schools. These speeches threw upon the intention of the framers and supporters of the Bill a light which was both lurid and novel. If the spirit underlying such observations were representative of the intentions of the Government in introducing the Bill, then the Bill might be entitled not "A Bill to make better provision for education," but a Bill to deprive voluntary schools not merely of the support from the rates they had received since 1902, but also of the support they had enjoyed from the grants since 1870. He doubted whether a single member of the Government told his constituents that they intended to do such a thing. As to the proposal put forward by the Minister for Education, so far as the second was put forward as the necessary corollary of the first, he and a number of his friends would have nothing to do with it. They would accept the first with gratitude but would strongly oppose the second.

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) wished to raise a point as to procedure. The suggestion was made that upon Report a proposal should be made which would give effect to the concession of the Minister for Education If that were so, they would be kept for a long time in ignorance of the exact nature of the concession made, and they would be unable to discuss Clauses 3, 4 and 8 properly. The question of this proposal would always be cropping up. Could not the right hon. Gentleman undertake to bring forward his proposal, when next they considered the Bill, as an addendum to Clause 2? That would be quite easy. He would also be glad if the right hon. Gentleman would consider an Amendment which he had on the Paper on the same subject.

MR. BIRRELL said he would bring forward his proposal as quickly as he could. He could not say that he would do so before Clauses 3 and 4 were considered, but he would certainly produce it before Clause 8 was dealt with.

Question put.

MAJOR SEELY said he had expressed a desire to withdraw the Amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: I put the question of withdrawal, and it was not accepted.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 104; Noes, 330. (Division List No. 115.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir AlexF
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim. S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doughty, Sir George

Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans-(T'rHam.
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Ed'ds)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Dublin, S.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb'gh, W
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Manson, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Evelyn Cecil and Mr. Ashley.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Som'rs't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff.)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Chesh.)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E Grins'td
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.

Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncst'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'th'mpton)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'h
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbank, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Thorne, William
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W. Dudley (S'th'mpton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) said the object of the Amendment he now proposed to move was very simple. This clause dealt with the agreements to be entered into between the local education authority and the owners of the voluntary schools, and the Amendment simply stated the intention of those in charge of the Bill, namely, that the local education authority should not enter into an agreement solely on the ground that the school owners would not insist upon the facilities under Clauses 3 and 4. It was a perfectly simple Amendment, and one which he thought, after the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education, and the speeches of other speakers on that side, the Government would have no difficulty in accepting. If those in charge of this Bill did not accept this Amendment, then Clauses 3 and 4 became a farce, because it would be seen that the Government did not propose to carry out the avowed intention of the Bill.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: Would the hon. Member read the Amendment?

MR. RAWLINSON—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'manner' to insert the words, 'provided that the local education authority shall not refuse to enter into an agreement because the owners make it a condition that facilities for giving religious instruction of some special character shall be afforded in accordance with the provisions of this Act.'"

MR. SAMUEL EVANS, on a point of order, contended that the Amendment was not in order because the Committee had already decided to retain the word "may" in place of "shall" and this Amendment provided that the local education authority "shall not refuse."

MR. RAWLINSON said the Chairman of Committees had already ruled that the Amendment was in order, and therefore he should submit it.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN (MR. CALDWELL, Lanark, Mid.) said the Amendment was no doubt in order, because, although the earlier portion of the clause was optional, the second portion was mandatory.

MR. RAWLINSON said that having regard to the speeches of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill there could be no objection to this Amendment, because his expressed intention had been that, assuming a school to be in a good state of repair, and one which in every way it was proper should be taken over, the local education authority should take it over. All the Amendment amounted to was that the local education authority should not refuse to take it over simply on the ground that the owner was insisting on denominational teaching being taught. If Clauses 3 and 4 were a reality and not a sham he felt convinced that the Government upon consideration would accept the Amendment, but he would admit at once that the hon. and learned Member for Mid. Glamorganshire in his very able speech had given the Committee an insight which they had not before. Certainly the hon. and learned Gentleman said, or gave one the impression that he possibly meant Clauses 3 and 4 not to be a reality. Very possibly he gave a wrong impression. If so, the hon. and learned Gentleman would support this Amendment. If, on the other hand, the conclusion they came to was correct, then it was only right that this Amendment should be before the Committee, and they should learn definitely whether, in the case of a school being fit to be taken over, it was the intention of the Committee that the local education authority should then say, "Though in every way your school is desirable, and we shall take it over provided you do not insist upon the facilities under Clauses 3 and 4, if you do insist upon those facilities we will not take it at any price." As the hon. Member for Perth said yesterday, if they meant to stamp out denominational schools let them say so at once, but if, on the other hand, they really meant what had been said time after time in this debate, to give a fair and proper chance to utilise the facilities under Clauses 3 and 4, surely the Government would accept this Amendment, which would amount to a direction to the local education authority that they should not refuse to take over the schools which were otherwise fit simply because the owner wished to avail himself of the facilities mentioned. It was a very small concession to owners of schools, if a concession at all. Such owners had considerable difficulties under this clause, as it was, in coming to an agreement. Even if the Amendment were carried, it was conceivable that excuses might be made for not taking over schools. The hon. and learned Member for Mid. Glamorganshire had said it would be a monstrous thing if a local education authority in a single school area were to take over a voluntary school and be tied with the facilities under Clauses 3 and 4. If so skilful and distinguished a lawyer allowed the feline animal out of the bag to that extent, surely they might take it that members of local education authorities would treat the matter in a very curt way, and openly refuse to take the school-house because it would give denominational teaching to which they objected. The least they could do in this Committee was to show that where other things were satisfactory the local education authority ought not to decline to take over a school simply because the owner insisted on facilities being given which this Bill provided.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'manner' to insert the words 'Provided that the local education authority shall not refuse to enter into any agreement because the owners make it a condition that facilities for giving religious instruction of some special character shall be afforded in accordance with the provisions of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. LOUGH hoped the hon. and learned Gentleman would not press this Amendment. He thought that after the concession which the Government had made such an Amendment would not have been brought before the Committee. The Government had gone a long way to meet the objections of the hon. Gentleman. He could only think that the Amendment was recommended to the Committee on the ground that it would improve the drafting of the Bill, but the Government could not allow the Bill to be drafted on the other side of the House. The material point which he believed the hon. and learned Member desired was fully covered. If the hon. and learned Gentleman would look at the opening line of Clause 3 he would see that it provided for these special facilities being granted. Clauses 3 and 4 would be meaningless if it were not intended that the granting of facilities might be one of the conditions of taking over schools. If this particular proviso were inserted, others would be required, and it was a little difficult to consider fully the effects of an Amendment of this kind which did not appear on the Paper. The Bill was better drafted in its present shape than would be the case if they carried an Amendment which was suddenly moved without even being put on the Paper.

SIR E. CARSON said he thought the answer of the hon. Gentleman was an entirely inadequate one. He would be able to show the Committee that the Bill, at all events, so far as the drafting was concerned, was faulty in the matter of allowing arrangements to be made for obtaining facilities, such as they were, as provided by Clause 3 of the Bill, and he believed, before he had done, the hopes of those who thought that denominational teaching was going to be preserved would be even further removed. He would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education whether any power was given in the Bill to the local authorities to make arrangements with the owners for the giving of religious education in the school. He could find it nowhere. Arrangements might be made between the local education authority and the owners, but this arrangement must not be inconsistent with the fact that the school was a provided school. They were therefore driven back to this, that the only arrangement that could be made was an arrangement that the old Cowper-Temple Clause was to be applicable to the new schools. That was the only religious arrangement that could be made in any provided school by law so far as he knew. The hon. and learned Member for Mid. Glamorganshire had referred to Clause 3, and said that the arrangement was certain to happen, but if they could not under the previous clause make the providing of facilities a condition of arrangement, how could it ever happen? He knew his hon. friend would say that they ought to imply things. They wanted it, however, to be expressed.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: Clause 3 says they shall have facilities.

SIR E. CARSON said his point was that there was nothing in the Bill allowing it to be made a condition. The hon. Member was, he thought, under the impression that the words "any arrangements they think fit by agreement with the owners" covered religious arrangements, but he had pointed out that that could not be so because they would be inconsistent with the school's being a provided school. If the words "any arrangements" included any arrangements with regard to religious instruction, then they would be allowed to make any arrangements they thought fit. He defied anyone to find out what it was that was intended, or any provision whatever for giving power to the local authority and the owners to make arrangements regarding religious instruction. He now came more directly to this particular Amendment. The hon. and learned Member for Mid-Glamorganshire was, at all events, candid; he contemplated that in the case of a single school area it would be a monstrous thing for a local education authority to allow any denominational education in it at all.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said he did not say that. What he said was that it would be a monstrous thing to compel the local education authority to take over the school.

SIR E. CARSON said the hon. and learned Gentleman therefore contemplated that the local education authority of the one school area would not take over any school in which denominational education was to exist. But the hon. and learned Gentleman went on to the area where there might be two or three schools. What did he contemplate there? That the local education authority might be bound to ask what was the good of keeping up one denominational school when they had two undenominational schools, and therefore they would put an end to the denominational school. That meant that the hon. and learned Gentleman contemplated that they were going to put an end to denominational education altogether.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: Except so far as it applies to Clause 4.

SIR E. CARSON said the hon. and learned Gentleman seemed to forget that Clause 4 did not come into play until the education authority had elected to take over the school. The hon. and learned Gentleman had mentioned Clause 4 with a view of showing, he presumed, his great fairness towards the Irish Party and the Catholic population. The hon. and learned Gentleman no doubt, like many others, saw that it might be prudent to give a preference to Catholics which they denied to Protestants of a different denomination from themselves. Having regard to that speech the importance of the Amendment of the hon. Member for Cambridge University became apparent. The Amendment was simply that if the local education authority took over a denominational school pressure ought not to be allowed to be put upon the owner by saying that they would not permit the provision that religion of a particular denomination was to be taught in the school. Was that fair in the case of a school that was a fit school in every respect to be taken over? They were dealing here with trusts, and this section was putting an end to those trusts. He should have thought, at least, that care would have been taken to see that the terms of the trust were inserted, and he did not doubt that an Amendment would be brought forward to enable the owners of the school to insist that those educational trusts should be carried out. But the Government went to the other extreme, and compelled the trustee absolutely to abandon the trust imposed upon him, failing which an end would be put altogether to the school as a national school. His hon. friend's Amendment was absolutely necessary, and without such an amendment the local education authority would be enabled to hold such a lever as would put upon a man absolutely unfair terms in his endeavour to carry out a trust. The Committee were entitled to some further answer than they had so far received. No concession whatever had been made, and even if there had been it was no reason why they should not compel the local authority to give the facilities which were laid down by the Government themselves in Clauses 3 and 4.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) said the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had refused to accept the Amendment partly on the ground that a concession had been made already, partly on the ground that it merely concerned drafting, and partly on the ground that the matter was covered by Clause 3. As to the concession having been made, they very much doubted it; but whether it was a concession or not it was no ground for refusing to accept an Amendment which was in itself wise and just. As regarded drafting, it was a most astonishing argument to bring forward that because an Amendment was a mere drafting Amendment it could not be accepted. It was the commonest thing that if an Amendment were a mere drafting Amendment it should be accepted without further discussion. Perhaps they came to the substance of the hon. Gentleman's opposition when he told them that the whole object of the Amendment was really contained in Clause 3. He might remind the Committee what this Amendment really did. It proposed that, assuming the schools were sanitary, the local education authority should not refuse to enter into an agreement with owners who wished to make it a condition that special religious facilities should be given. The whole thing turned upon whether the local education authority was willing to make arrangements for the affording of facilities of this character. Supposing it refused to make a condition of this sort, where would the owners of the school-house be? This Amendment wanted to make it perfectly clear that the local education authority was not to be allowed to refuse to make an arrangement with the owners merely on the ground that the local education authority objected to special facilities. Clause 3 allowed these special facilities to be given if the local education authority chose to grant them. The Amendment desired to prevent there being any choice in the matter, and to compel the local authority to make arrangements if the only ground for their refusal was that they did not like these special facilities. The hon. Member opposite, who seemed to have some doubt as to the need of putting this provision in the Bill, showed a very child-like faith in local education authorities. He seemed to suppose that if it were said in debate in this House that it was their intention that such facilities were not to be unreasonably withheld, then under no circumstances would the local education authority unreasonably withhold them. He was afraid he had no such child-like faith in local authorities. He thought in many cases they would withhold facilities. Some members of local authorities had already made it perfectly clear in frank statements that they were disposed to take advantage of the position in order to withhold special facilities and to refuse to make any arrangements with the owners of the school-house. If the object of what was called the concession by the Government was to prevent local education authorities from exercising any unjust option of that kind then the Government should all the more readily accept this Amendment, so as to make it perfectly plain what the position and intention of the clause really was.

MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said the answer of the Parliamentary Secretary was hopelessly inadequate. The Government seemed to labour under a fundamental misconception of the position. They always argued as if Clause 3 created rights. Such rights as were contemplated by Clause 3 were not created by this statute. The Parliamentary Secretary had made two answers to the Amendment. One was that it was adequately dealt with by the concession the Government had made, and the other that it was adequately dealt with by Clause 3. The hon. Gentleman forgot that they could not all take the same view of the concession as he did. That concession had been made a ground for demanding a kind of compensation which had no relation to the matter at all. It was no use saying that the local authority could be trusted to negotiate such contracts in a reasonable manner. Laws were not made for reasonable persons. They were made to restrain and coerce unreasonable persons; if there were no unreasonable persons laws would probably not be required at all. The Amendment asked that the question whether there should or should not be facilities granted by the local authority should be open and should remain open from the beginning of the negotiations, and that it should not be open to a local authority to nullify the intention of Parliament.

MR. WYNDHAM asked whether the Committee might accept the answer of the Parliamentary Secretary as meaning that the concession which had been promised by the Minister for Education would cover the case contemplated in this Amendment. The promise was given in respect of a hypothetical position, namely, that a local authority could give the go-by to the owners of a voluntary school and proceed to build a school of its own. Would the owners of a voluntary school in such a case have the right of appeal?

*MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) said he had not heard a reply to the arguments advanced in support of the Amendment. He thought the Parliamentary Secretary had not contemplated what might occur if the Government did not accept the Amendment. After the speech of the hon. Member for Mid-Glamorganshire they were bound to face what was a very disagreeable prospect for the future. The hon. Member had said he thought it would be a monstrous thing if local authorities were not allowed to discontinue certain voluntary schools in a one school area. He also said that the only concession he would give would be under Clause 4, which would entirely cut out all voluntary schools in the rural districts. They had to consider the case of a school which was perfectly efficient, and about which the local authority refused to come to an agreement. What was to be done in a case like that if the Government were not going to put in this Amendment? It meant that the children in those schools would be cut out from the facilities which the Government had announced they intended them to receive. If the Government refused the Amendment, was it or was it not their intention that the children now being educated in the voluntary schools should have a certainty of the facilities for religious teaching in the future under the Bill? If they refused the Amendment there was no certainty of that; in fact there was a great probability that a great many would not have the facilities.

*MR. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe) thought the hon. Member for Cambridge University would find that there was a good deal more sympathy with the substance of his Amendment among hon. Members on the Ministerial side of the House than he seemed to imagine. It seemed to him, however, that the Amendment was entirely unnecessary, because the point would be covered by the words which the President of the Board of Education proposed to introduce. What he understood was that when a local education authority was found to be, using the right hon. Gentleman's word, "pig-headed," there should be an appeal to the Board of Education, and that there should be a local inquiry in such cases. Where an existing denominational school was in every respect efficient, and was required by the educational circumstances of the district, he was not prepared to allow a local authority to refuse to take it over merely because it was a denominational school. Hon. Gentlemen on the other side should understand also that there would be reciprocity in this matter. There should be no obligation on a local authority to take over a school unless it was really required in the interests of educational efficiency and economy. He did not understand the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Mid-Glamorganshire to say that he thought it was a monstrous thing that where there was an efficient provided school and a small non-provided school it should be obligatory on the local authority to take over the small school if it was required in the interests of economy and educational efficiency. What he did understand him to mean was that it would be monstrous if the local authority was bound to take over a school where they could make a better bargain for the public by not taking it over. He understood that the Commissioner appointed to hold the local inquiry would ascertain the facts, and that the Board of Education would finally determine whether the school was required to be taken over, having regard to economy and educational efficiency in the district. He thought the Committee should give the Minister for Education the guidance for which he had asked to determine his action in the matter, and that he should be directed that his decision should be given without reference to denominational considerations, but solely on grounds of educational efficiency. He hoped a local authority would not be forced to take over a denominational school, simply because it was denominational, when it was really not required in the interest of the community. They ought to look upon this question not as members of this or that denomination but as citizens who had in view as their primary object the efficiency of the educational system, not neglecting, of course, the question of fairness or unfairness between the different denominations. He would support the Amendment if he was not clearly of opinion that what was desired would be covered by the words to be introduced by the Minister for Education.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he certainly hoped the Committee might have some further guidance on this matter from the Minister for Education. The right hon. Gentleman was not in his place when the Parliamentary Secretary spoke. The hon. Gentleman made an amiable and pleasing contribution to the debate, but he did not make clear the very things they desired to have made clear; he criticised the proposal as a drafting Amendment, and asked with indignation in his voice whether it was customary for Governments to accept drafting Amendments of the kind proposed. He himself had accepted many drafting Amendments, although he did not say that they always improved the Bills in which they were made. Probably the Parliamentary Secretary himself when in Opposition had proposed drafting Amendments which he had had the honour to accept. But this was not a drafting Amendment. If it were a drafting Amendment the amount of interest in it would be small, and the amount of time spent upon it might be still smaller, but the hon. Member for the Wycombe Division in his contribution to the debate had shown that it was really a most important point. The intentions of the Government, as he understood them, were in direct opposition to the views of the hon. Member for Mid Glamorgan, who said that the Bill would be wholly unacceptable if it deprived the local authorities of an option in regard to providing facilities for denominational education. That was the view the hon. Member had laid down clearly, and he had received a large measure of adhesion from the hon. Members who sat behind him. But it was not the Government view, as he understood it, and it certainly was not the view of the hon. Member who had just spoken, for he had clearly said that he did not want to allow local option in the matter of concessions connected with denominational religion. The Government took the same view. The Government, partly by the concession made that afternoon, and partly by speeches made before, had laid it down clearly that the subject was not to be left entirely to the locality. Did the concession of the Government that afternoon render the Amendment of his hon. friend unnecessary? If the concession rendered the Amendment unnecessary he would deprecate any further continuation of the debate, because the Committee had already discussed the subject, and he was not anxious to go over the same ground twice. But he did not think that the concession of the Government covered the Amendment of his hon. friend. The questions dealt with by the Bill were far more important since the concession was made by the Government He thought the right hon. Gentleman had used rather excessive language in regard to this subject, although he agreed with him that the responsibility thrown upon himself and his successor might be of a very onerous character. As he listened to the right hon. Gentleman he thought that there was nothing in the Minister's words, and that there would be nothing in the Bill if it became law, even with the additions promised by the Government, to make clear to both the local authority and the Board of Education to whom appeals were to come, that it was not to be a case of hindering an arrangement between the two parties as to what denominational education was to be given in the schools to be handed over. His hon. friend's Amendment would make it perfectly clear that that was not to be a bar to a bargain. If these words were inserted it would be a complete defeat of the party of local option; if they were refused he wanted to know why they were refused by a Government which professed to be opposed to the party of local option. The Government said in the first place, that they desired that these religious facilities should be given; and, in the second place, that the Minister of Education ought to be safeguarded and guided by Parliament. Both these conditions were carried out by the Amendment of his hon. friend, and he was unable to see what were the objections to the admission of the words. Clause 3 had no reference to this question direct or indirect, immediate or remote. It was a question antecedent to Clause 3.

MR. BIRRELL said that his objection to the Amendment was that it was practically worthless. His acquaintance with local authorities was not great—he wished it had been less—but it was much greater than that of hon. Gentlemen opposite. Hon. Members imagined that a local authority which had a mind to refuse to take over a voluntary school would put in the forefront what their real reason was. That was not the way people went to work in these matters. They would give other reasons than those which had been mentioned in support of their objection to take over the school. They would never boldly assert that the reason why they did not take over the schools was that if they did they would allow the Catechism to be taught and the Prayer-book expounded twice a week. They would find some reason in the drainage or in the accommodation for cloaks, or in the inadequacy of the class rooms. Some of the reasons perhaps would be very difficult to dispose of if the Board of Education were to send one of its architects or inspectors to survey the premises to ascertain whether they were such buildings as the local authority required and should be taken over. The words proposed to be introduced by his hon. friend were of no value whatever.

Mr. RAWLINSON said he felt very deeply on the subject, and would like to say a word or two in reply to the President of the Board of Education, who had told the Committee that there were certain people about the country who would not do these things.

Mr. BIRRELL said that what he had stated was that if they were so minded to do such unjust acts they would not be so foolish as not to conceal their object.

Mr. RAWLINSON said that there was a different class of persons altogether left out of account in the calculations of the right hon. Gentleman. He was not dealing with political antagonists, who might or might not put forward some dishonest reason for doing a certain act. He was dealing with many religious people whom he knew, not only Nonconformists, who felt very deeply on this matter. If they were called upon to take over Roman Catholic schools, for instance, they would view the obligation as a great and intolerable burden on their conscience to apply the money of the ratepayers for the support of such chools. Since the Bill had been before the House he had had communication with really religious Nonconformists who had told him that Clause 4 was an intolerable burden on their conscience. Such people, when the matter came before the education authority, he assumed would act honestly, and not say that they were disinclined to take over the Roman Catholic schools because the drains were wrong and the cloak rooms insufficient. People of this sort would say that they ought not to take part in taking over a school for teaching Roman Catholicism in this country. He had the greatest respect for that type of man, but when people of that sort found that it was within their power to refuse to take over a school, he thought that they might be influenced in that way. Therefore, although the greater number of educational authorities would, no doubt, act straightforwardly and honestly, there remained this danger in certain cases. That being so, it would be of advantage to have in the Bill a provision laying it down that local authorities were bound to take over a school if they found that it was fit to be taken over, and must not allow religious differences to enter into the matter. He thought the Act of Parliament should say that they would be acting contrary to their duty and rights if they were to carry it out in that particular way. Besides that, he submitted that this Amendment would not be covered by the proposed Amendment which the President of the Board of Education was to bring forward. If this Amendment were accepted, the Bill would contain an instruction to the local authority that they should not refuse to enter into any agreement because the owners made it a condition of an agreement that facilities for giving religious instruction should be accorded, in accordance with the facility clauses. Not only that, it would be also an instruction to the Board of Education in case of an appeal. The right hon. Gentleman himself had told them that, in his duties as President of the Board of Education, it would be of the greatest possible assistance to him to have a direction from Parliament. He therefore asked the Committee to give that direction, especially as the Minister in charge of the Bill had admitted that the Amendment only carried out the intention of the Government. Although no doubt there were a large number of people who were opposed to that intention, he asked the Committee to accept the Amendment so that there should be an instruction to the local education authority and the Board of Education, acting upon which they would carry out the intentions of members of the Government.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) said the right hon. Gentleman had opposed this Amendment on different grounds from those advanced by his colleague. He did not wish to refer to the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary, which that hon. Gentlemen might upon reflection regret, but in regard to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, he was quite sure that the local education authorities, with whom he said he had himself come into conflict, when they desired to defy the law would desire to say why they did so. The Parliamentary Secretary had objected to this Amendment on the ground that it was superfluous and redundant, but the right hon. Gentleman had said that he agreed with the Amendment in substance, and that it was already in the Bill. That was a point of great importance, in regard to which he wished to call the attention of the Committee to what had been said by members of the Government. The President of the Board of Education had said more than once that the facilities under Clause 3 were compulsory, and the Chancellor of the Duchy also had said so when he said that these powers were not subject to the control of the local education authority, but that parents would be entitled to have their children given this religious teaching. The President of the Board of Education himself put the matter still more clearly when he said that it was plain that, if the trustees of a school made the stipulation in regard to transfer, that there should be these facilities given, the obligation became statutory. They were in direct issue with the Government on that point, because they on the Opposition side of the House said that under Clauses 3 and 4 the facilities were not mandatory. The whole of Clause 3 was governed by the first word "If." It was laid down there that "if" an arrangement had been come to for affording facilities, those facilities should be given. There was nothing in the clause, however, binding the local authorities to accept an arrangement in regard to facilities as a condition of transfer. The right hon. Gentleman said that owners or trustees could make this stipulation before transfer, but if they did so and the local education authority did not wish to afford the facilities it need not come to an agreement, and the managers must in that case consent to be excluded from the Bill or to come under the Bill and receive no facilities. Under Clause 8, moveover, there was no provision which gave the Commission of three power to enforce facilities. Therefore he thought that it was most necessary that they should have some Amendment of this kind. The minatory speeches which had been made on the other side seemed to indicate that in the opinion of hon. Gentleman the best thing the local education authorities could do would be to refuse to take over as many elementary schools as possible. The hon. Member for Mid Glamorganshire, who had spoken in this manner, no doubt represented a great deal of public opinion, and they had to take into account speeches of the kind which he and the hon. Member for Lincolnshire had made. He was quite convinced that unless Clause 3 was made mandatory, that was to say, unless it was made what the Government had repeatedly stated it was intended to be, there was great danger that in thousands and thousands of these schools all facilities for religious education would be refused. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education agreed that those facilities if they were not compulsory ought to be made so. He had told them that these facilities had been inserted in order to escape the harshness of Clause 1, but after the discussion they had had that afternoon he should say, not the harshness, but the inconveniences of Clause 1. That being the case, he asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he would not insert a provision to make it absolutely certain that these facilities should be compulsory. They on the Opposition side of the House attached incalculable importance to such a provision, and therefore his hon. friend had asked that, at the outset of Clause 2, they should put in a direction to the local education authorities, which was really only a drafting Amendment, because the right hon. Gentleman himself had said that he agreed with it in substance.

MR. BIRRELL rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 333; Noes, 142. (Division List No. 116.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'm'rs't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp't
Benn, W.(Tow'r H'ml'ts,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex,Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn. Sydney Charles
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.HnRichard[Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,Sir Wm.J. (S.PancrasW
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies,David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford,S.
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merth'r Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithness-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, HughCecil(St.Pancras,E.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald

M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks,G.Croydon(Launceston
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearson,W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'uthampton
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F.(Wolverhamptn
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred (Merthyr
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Thorne, William
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers Ernest Amherst
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W, L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A.(Elgin and Nairn
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,Hon.C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.,N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.HughO
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.VictorC.W
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Craig, CaptainJames(Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon.
Donelan, Capt. A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford

Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hazleton, Richard
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement(Shrewsbury)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J.W.
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
King,SirHenrySeymour(Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col. A.R
Long, Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lundon, W.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon.Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wortley, Rt.Hon.C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt.Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 104; Noes, 326. (Division List No. 117.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn.SirAlex.F
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.HughO.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Barrie, H.T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold,Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred.Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Glover, Thomas
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.
Hills, J. W.
Hornby ,Sir William Henry
Kennaway, Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir HenrySeymour(Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool,Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Starkey, John R.
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon.C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt.Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Rawlinson and Mr. Salter.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs,Carlyon
Benn, JohnWilliams(Devonp't
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, SirJohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn. SydneyCharles
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett,CH.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, David(Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner,Col.Alan (Hereford,S.)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hon.HerbertJoh
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caithness-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife,West)
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil(S. Pancras, E.
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major C.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)

Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Col. Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford(Pembroke
Phillips, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh, Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, SirGScott(Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E.(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T.(HawickB.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset, E.
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C.H.W.(Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J T(Hudd'rsf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*MR. CAVE moved to leave out in lines 18 and 19 the words "but it shall," and insert "and it may." The right hon. Gentleman had said last night that the local authority would have absolute freedom in concluding an agreement. So long as paragraphs (a) and (b) were made compulsory that freedom did not really exist, and he wanted to leave it open to the local authorities to put in these clauses if they thought fit and the Board of Education approved. It might be said that the effect might be detrimental to the voluntary schools to make the first part of paragraph (a) optional and not compulsory. No doubt in form it was an advantage to the owners of the schools that the local education authority should be compelled in all cases to keep the school premises in repair, but he did not think it was a real advantage. The rent would be made less on account of that obligation, and therefore it seemed to him to be merely a nominal advantage. The other parts of (a) and (b) were fetters upon the free bargaining powers of parties, and they ought not to be made compulsory in all cases. The second object he had was to lead up to further Amendments on the Paper, one of which said "that the local education authority during the continuance of the arrangement shall pay a reasonable rent or sum for the use of the school-house." He thought that was necessary, inasmuch as they were dealing with a public authority which had control over public funds, and they should give express power to the authority to make payments out of public money.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. and learned Gentleman was discussing an Amendment which he proposed to move at a later stage, but as that Amendment contained a proposition which had been disposed of already it was not in order.

*MR. CAVE said he also moved his present Amendment for the purpose of inserting another Amendment later on which would empower the parties to an agreement to provide for the authority affording facilities for religious instruction.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. and learned Gentleman's other Amendment was also out of order.

*MR. CAVE said that being so, it simply remained for him to say that he desired to make paragraphs (a) and (b) optional.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 18 and 19, to leave out the words 'but it shall,' and insert the words 'and it may.'"

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. BIRRELL said if it were desirable to make (a) and (b) optional it would be much better to omit them altogether than to encumber the Bill with them. But he did not think that was desirable. It was desirable that it should be made perfectly clear that it was a condition of the bargain that the school-house should be kept in good repair, and also that the educational authority should have the power to make alterations and improvements which time might reveal as being necessary. On the whole, he thought the clause as it stood was best, and secured for the local authority that control over the premises they acquired which was absolutely necessary if they were to retain the best possible places for education.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) said he thought the Amendment would, if agreed to, facilitate those agreements which those interested in the schools were anxious to come to with the local education authorities. It was in the interest of the public and in the interest of the schools themselves that they should be kept open. He agreed that if it was to be made optional the provision had better be struck out altogether. But he thought it was better to keep it in and make it compulsory.

LORD R. CECIL said he could not agree that this Amendment was useless. In the first place he could not follow the argument put forward more than once by the Minister for Education that if a provision was not compulsory on the authority which had to deal with the matter it was no use whatever. It was at all events an indication, and sometimes a very important indication, of the policy Parliament desired the local authority to carry out. In most cases the local authority would take the course suggested by such an indication, whereas if it was made compulsory the local authority would have to take that course in every case whether it was the best course to take or not. Sub-section (b) was also governed by the words "shall." That was the section which said that the school-house was to be free from any trusts and conditions which were not consistent with the conduct or management of the school as a public elementary school provided by the local authority or in any way restricted their full control of the school. That was a very strong phrase. It might be desirable that it should be part of the arrangement in certain cases that the local education authority should enter into an arrangement which would restrict their full control, and it would be a very strong thing to say that they should not do so. In this matter he ranged himself on the side of the local optionist. He did not yet feel confident that the Government had made up their minds as to whether this was to be a local option Bill or not For some purposes it was, and for others it was not. Here, for instance, was a case in which the discretion of the local education authority was to be absolutely controlled and fettered; where they were not to be allowed to make the arrangement which might be most desirable. He could not see the least objection to the Amendment of his hon. friend, and he saw many advantages in it The Amendment, in his opinion, would conduce to the smooth working of the Bill, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would accept it.

*MR. CARLILE (Herts, St. Albans) said he believed if this Amendment was accepted a large amount of very natural suspicion would be averted. The suggestion that the local education authority should carry out the repairs of buildings owned by other people would at once suggest to the minds of the owners of those buildings that the object of undertaking the repairs and alterations was in order to get a lien on the buildings, and a very strong feeling would prevail in the minds of the trustees and the private owners that all this was merely a first step in the direction of confiscating the property of the school on a subsequent occasion. If the section were made optional and the local education authority allowed a free hand to negotiate as it pleased in regard to this question of repairs and alterations and reconstruction, such a suspicion might be easily done away with. The local authority might prefer to pay a reasonable rent and be at the same time relieved from the necessity of carrying out the repairs. To most owners it would be particularly objectionable and must meet with the strongest suspicion on their part. Private owners did not want the local authorities to come meddling with their property. They had spent £30,000,000 on their schools since 1870. He himself had recently spent £1,400 on his own school, and would gladly spend that amount again rather than see people come meddling with his building. He entered a most vigorous protest against the charge which had been levelled against the private owners that they wanted to part with their schools now that Clause 1 was passed, whilst before that they were opposed to these schools being taken over. They merely wanted their schools to be continued, but they would not put up with the erection beside their present efficient school buildings of another school building in order that the local authority might be able to dip their hands into the pockets of the largest ratepayers of the district. That was what would occur under this miserable and iniquitous Bill. He supported the Amendment of his hon. friend, and hoped it would be made optional, so that the private owners of the schools would be able to make such arrangements as would enable them to continue to do their own repairs and alterations.

*Mr. CAVE said that after the ruling of the Chairman he felt that the strongest argument in favour of this Amendment had gone, and therefore he would, with the permission of the Committee, withdraw it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Carlile.

Mr. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) moved an Amendment providing that rent should not be paid for the use of any schoolhouse for the purpose of public elementary education which was held upon trust to be used exclusively or mainly for such purpose. He said it was not only a question of rent that was involved. It was also a question of repairs and extensions. The whole responsibility of the premises were to be thrown on the local education authority. There was no power of bargaining to be left, and the local education authority was obliged to take over any kind of premises offered to them unless found to be entirely useless for the purpose of an elementary school. Under the circumstances he saw no reason why the rights which the public had under the Act of 1870, and also under the Act of 1902, should not be continued. He thought it was a valuable right in the possession of the public at the present time, and he did not see why they should lose it unless they received a very substantial equivalent.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, to leave out from the word 'repair' to end of sub-section."—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. BIRRELL said he could not accept the Amendment of his hon. friend. The Government thought that the matter of rent might safely be left to the local education authority. Of course, the question as to the purposes of a school under the trust would enter into the determination of the rent to be paid. In the same way public money which had been granted for the building of a school and had not been repaid was an element which the local authority would be entitled to take into consideration. It would be inconvenient to begin by saying that in particular circumstances no rent should be given. That would entail that the matter should go to the Commission, and would very much delay the operation of the Bill. He could not imagine that there would be any desire on the part of the local authorities to pay extravagant rents.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said he was not sure that the hon. Member for the Morley division was right in regard to the Act of 1870. In the debate last night, if he did not mistake its meaning, it was shown that the peppercorn rent was a discovery of the official mind, and not a restriction imposed by the Act itself. He thought it was desirable that this point should be raised now, and that it should be clearly undertood that the imposition of a rent was not a novelty.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he was glad to hear the President of the Board of Education say that rent was a matter not to be excluded from the consideration of the Commission.

LORD BALCARRES said the President of the Board of Education had stated that the question of rent should be left to the local authority. That seemed to be in contravention of the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said that in the case of a transferred school there was to be an adequate rent paid. Where was that provided for in the Bill ? Would the right hon. Gentleman put the word "adequate" in the Bill ?

*THE CHAIRMAN said the question which the noble Lord was discussing really did not arise on this Amendment.

MR. HUTTON asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. CAVE moved an Amendment to provide that where repairs to, or alterations in, school buildings were required by the local authority they should be carried out by the owners at the cost of the authority.

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the Clock, and there being private business set down, by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding stood postponed without Question put.

NORTH EAST LONDON RAILWAY BILL
(BY ORDER).

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. JAMES CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid.) in the Chair.]

*MR. CAVE, continuing his speech, said that although the local education authorities were, under the Bill, entitled to the use of the schools for a certain period, the ownership remained with the trustees. Everybody who was familiar with the administration of property knew that where alterations on a building were to be made it was desirable that this should be executed by the owners, and not by what were practically licensees. Let me take the case where part of a building was used for school purposes and the rest, say, as a parish hall, the owner was the person who ought to decide exactly in what form the alterations to the building should be made. The agreement between the local education authority and the owner or owners of the voluntary school might be for only a short time—one, two, or three years. Was it right that lessees or licensees for a short period only should be able to take possession of the building, put their own workmen into it, and make architectural alterations without the control of the owner or owners ? Surely the freeholder ought to make the alterations, put in his own contractors or workmen, and supervise the work.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, after the word 'that' to insert the words 'the owners of the schoolhouse shall at the cost of'."

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. LOUGH said that extraordinary liberality had been shown by the State to owners under this sub-section and it was significant that no proposal was made to omit it. Under this provision owners were relieved of the duty of repairing schools and their upkeep would probably cost the public over £250,000 per annum. He recognised the friendly tone of the hon. Member, but he asked him to look at the question somewhat broadly, and he would see that the Bill had been drawn in a very considerate manner in regard to owners. The case put by the hon. Member was extreme; there would surely be give and take between the local authority and the owners of the schoolhouse. The substance of the Amendment, too, must be examined. There was often a difficulty in getting owners of property to execute necessary repairs; sometimes they could not be found and if found they raised many objections. It might be a great inconvenience to the local authority if it were prevented from taking action at once. Then, it was not a sound principle for one to spend and another to pay. There was an old maxim that the person who paid the piper should call the tune. He imagined that a friendly arrangement could always be come to. It was impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment.

Mr. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) said that he could give one instance of the manner in which a schoolhouse might be made absolutely unfit for other than school purposes. The local authority might decide on placing double desks in the schoolroom, and these would make it impossible to hold, say, a bazaar or a large parish meeting in the building. There were, in fact, innumerable instances in which the education authority might do considerable injury to the owner or owners of the school. He confessed that the Amendment of his hon. friend was rather too broad to meet most cases; but there were other instances in which alterations to the school buildings might be made which would be extremely unsatisfactory to the owner. If alterations were to be made on a school building on which a patron had spent a considerable sum of money, the owner should have a chance of seeing that these alterations were carried out according to his wishes. The Parliamentary Secretary had spoken of the generosity with which this part of the Bill had been drawn. He agreed, but there were other parts of the Bill which did the grossest injustice. He thought that the State did owe something to the men who had done so much to advance the cause of education in England in the past. He hoped that at some future time the Government could give an assurance that some alteration of this kind would be made in the Bill, so that the wishes of the owners and managers of the school could be met

*Sir **FRANCIS POWELL** thought they were under an obligation to his hon. friend for submitting this proposal, even if it had no other result than the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary. He thought it was an act of justice that the owners should have as much control over their property as was consistent with the Act. This Amendment would give the owners some remnant of authority at any rate, and he was quite sure that the good feeling to which the hon. Member had referred would be made more secure by the adoption of some Amendment in the sense of that now before the Committee. He would be very glad, therefore, if this Amendment were carried now, although it might have to be itself amended at a later stage. He was indebted to the Parliamentary Secretary for the friendly spirit which he had shown.

*Mr. **LEIF JONES** (Westmoreland, Appleby) said he had a great deal of sympathy with this Amendment, but he hoped it would not be pressed to a division, as he preferred the Amendment standing in the name of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Shropshire. He would like to remind the authorities of the Board of Education that unless they were inclined to meet private owners of schools in some such way as was suggested by the Amendment they might find that these owners would be unwilling to enter into arrangements under the Bill. He quite recognised that if the building was to be used as a school it was absolutely necessary that the local education authority should have the last word as to what was to be done with the school buildings. If the owners were willing to meet the authorities to that extent it seemed only fair —if the owners were willing to concur in alterations—that they should be consulted in regard to them. There were a good many village schools which were used as the village forum, and if the local authority insisted in treating the schools in a particular manner it might destroy their utility for that purpose. The local authority might, for instance, provide fixtures of a kind which would render the schools unfit for the purpose of meetings at night. He hoped the President of the Board of Education would take into consideration the rights and wishes of private owners and endeavour to meet them in the way suggested.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) said, as reference had been made to his Amendment, perhaps he might suggest that if the Minister in charge of the Bill would indicate that when reached it would have a favourable reception, it might then be open to his hon. friend behind him to withdraw the present Amendment. If that course were adopted he would not detain the Committee by an elaborate argument which otherwise he should have to address to them. His Amendment gave the owners the option of carrying out alterations or improvements at their own expense, and charging a fair percentage on the expenditure they incurred.

*Mr. LOUGH thought the hon. Member who had moved the Amendment which was under discussion might rest satisfied with the debate which had taken place and withdraw it. Even he was not very well satisfied with the form of this Amendment, but when they came to the Amendment of the hon. and gallant Gentleman he was sure that the President of the Board of Education would carry out the undertaking he had given in regard to it.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY said he was not prepared to say that the right hon. Gentleman had given an undertaking, but he had certainly expressed a favourable view, although he guarded himself in regard to certain small matters. From what had passed, however, he should think the right hon. Gentleman was prepared to give a favourable consideration to his Amendment.

*Mr. CAVE said that in view of what had been said by hon. Members on both sides of the House, and especially after what had been said by the right hon. and gallant Gentleman, he thought it would conduce to a final settlement if he asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON moved to insert that the alterations and improvements should be made "with the consent of the owners of the schoolhouse." That, he said, involved the same important principle as had been dealt with during the last quarter of an hour It was that premises which belonged to owners and trustees should not be altered in character or use by any action by the local authority without the consent of the owners. He did not know whether the Government were prepared to accept, or at any rate to regard with a favourable consideration, the Amendment of his hon. and gallant friend the Member for Shropshire, which stood lower down on the Paper. That Amendment would carry out his wishes more thoroughly than his own would do, and if the Government were prepared to accept it, or to give it favourable consideration, he would not occupy the time of the Committee by pressing the Amendment which he had moved.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'enabled' to insert the words 'with the consent of the owners of the schoolhouse.'"—(*Sir W. Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. LOUGH said that with reference to the Amendment of the hon. Baronet, he thought the same remark might be made as that which he had made in regard to the previous one. He did not think the Amendment was in the very best form, but he thought there ought to be a disposition on the part of the local authorities to consult the owners and make an arrangement in a conciliatory spirit. The Government would do their best to see that the Bill was so worded as to permit of conciliatory action being adopted. As to any future Amendment, when they came to it, his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education would be present, and no doubt he would deal with it.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said if he could get no better answer than that he must press his Amendment, because it was most important that owners and trustees should not find their property altered without their consent. As he understood the compromise offered by the Government that afternoon, school owners would be bound to offer their property to the local authorities. That made it all the more important that the owners of the schools should not find buildings, erected for a definite purpose, possibly in the neighbourhood of their own residences, altered without any consultation with them. The purpose for which these schools were to be taken over was that they should be used as public elementary schools during a certain number of hours on a certain number of days in the week. Was it fair that persons having the use of a school for a particular purpose should be able to alter the character and use of the building so as to make it unavailable for other purposes where the owners had erected a building which might be used only not for elementary school purposes but for many other purposes. Besides this, unless some sort of provision of the kind he suggested was introduced, the local authority might make changes which would be unsightly excrescences upon the buildings. They were told that the President of the Board of Education was prepared to be conciliatory on this point, but he wanted a more definite assurance. He was somewhat weary of the conciliatory assurances they had upon this point as well as upon others.

MR. BIRRELL said the right hon. Member for Shropshire had had a conversation with him upon this subject, and he told the right hon. Member that the Government could not agree with his Amendment because it would deprive the local education authorities of important powers. When it came to the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Oxford University, he thought something might be said for the private owners. If, therefore, it was confined to private owners, and if it were understood that the additional rent would be confined to a fair interest upon the money expended, he would, when the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment came before the Committee, take that into consideration. If through some unforeseen circumstance the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment was not reached, he (Mr. Birrell) would consider himself bound to give this subject some consideration and arrive at some means of meeting the objection.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD BALCARRES said he rose to move the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Holborn, to leave out from the word "alterations" to the end of the sub-section, and insert the words "which the Government inspectors may hold to be necessary." It seemed to him under subhead (a) that the authority now vested in the Board of Education to demand improvements was taken away. The local education authority was enabled to make alterations and improvements which in their opinion were necessary, or which in case of any dispute arising were in the opinion of the Board of Education necessary. The subhead (a) did not say who the parties to the dispute were in case of a dispute arising, but he assumed that they were the owners on the one hand and the local education authority on the other. In that case the Board of Education had no *status* until a dispute arose, which was a most undesirable state of things. Everybody familiar with elementary schools, voluntary or provided, knew that the main pressure to improve those schools from the structural point of view came in nine cases out of ten, or at least in a large majority of cases, from the Board of Education itself, through its inspectors, who were in and out the schools from time to time, and who were constantly saying, "If this is not done and if that alteration is not made you will get yourselves into trouble." It was no use telling the Committee that the Board of Education could stop the grants. No doubt it had that right, but according to Sub-head (a) it had no *status* before a dispute arose. He considered that the Board of Education ought to have a *status* prior to what was practically their ultimatum, namely, the stoppage of supplies. There might be some explanation to be made on this point, and, if so, he would be glad to hear it, but it appeared to him that the Bill deprived the Board of Education of the faculty which they had possessed for many years for bringing pressure on the schools for the purposes of improvements. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, to leave out from the word 'alterations' to end of sub-section and insert the words 'which Government inspectors may hold to be necessary.'"—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BIRRELL opposed the Amendment. He did not like dragging in the Government inspectors, who were the servants of the Board of Education, and giving them an independent position authorised by Act of Parliament. That the local education authority should only be entitled to insist on alterations which the Board, through their inspectors, thought necessary, was, in his opinion, most undesirable. At the same time, he gladly recognised that there had been growing up a spirit on the part of the managers of unprovided schools that they must keep up a certain standard of excellence, and in his opinion the persons more immediately concerned might be left to come to their decisions for themselves, leaving the powers of the Board of Education in reserve.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) supported the Amendment. Speaking as a London Member he knew, he said, from his own experience that a good many of the requirements made on the then voluntary schools of London by the London County Council as educational authority had been greatly in excess of what was necessary. They had been fanciful and extravagant to a degree. The tendency of the voluntary schools to improve their efficiency to which the right hon Gentleman had referred had grown up and been carried on under the guidance of the inspectors of the Board of Education. He did not know how far other local authorities would follow the example of the London County Council, but when the Council's Report was considered by those in charge of the voluntary schools which were hitherto considered thoroughly efficient and well equipped, they found the requirements of that Report were in many cases extravagant and even absurd. He was surprised to find his hon. friend the Member for North Camberwell making a plea for economy, when his friends on the County Council had shown such a tendency. Many of the requirements of the local education authority in this case had been in the direction of unnecessary extravagance. He drew from that experience an argument that to place the repairs entirely in the hands of the local authority would not tend to economy of the ratepayers' money.

*SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.) said that as he had been Chairman of the Education Committee of the London County Council for the past two years, he might be able to remove a little misapprehension on the part of the hon. Member and of others who in the course of debates on the Bill had alluded to the Report of the London County Council on the non-provided schools. The hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had intimated that this was a prime example showing how local authorities might deal harshly with voluntary schools. If hon. Gentlemen knew the facts as well as he did they would modify their statements.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: I was speaking from experience of the facts.

*SIR W. J. COLLINS said he held an extract from the minutes of the London County Council of May 30th, 1905, with regard to the requirements on managers of non-provided schools. It was as follows—

> "That with regard to the results of the survey and inspection, the managers be informed that the Council is prepared to consider any representations which the managers may think fit to make in regard to the requirements or directions which the Council may serve upon them."

He also held in his hand copies of a letter sent by the Clerk of the Council in June last year to the managers of non-provided schools in the County of London informing them of the alterations and improvements in buildings required to render them suitable for the purposes of public elementary education. The letter concluded—

> "I am to add that the Council is prepared to consider any representations which the managers may think fit to make with regard to the requirements and directions now made."

He might say further that during the past twelve months architects representing the managers of non-provided schools and the architect of the London County Council had been engaged in friendly negotiations, and he had himself seen letters of thanks sent by managers of non-provided schools for the courtesy and consideration shown to them. No instructions of the kind suggested were given to the architect of the county council who made his survey in a perfectly official capacity, and unbiassed by political motive. If hon. Members would make inquiry as to the facts they would find that the London County Council was innocent of the charges made against it.

*Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS said he did not wish to accuse the London County Council of discourtesy or want of consideration for the managers, but only to give some idea of the requirements which would be made by local authorities by comparing the requirements of the County Council with those of the inspectors of the Board under which the schools had always been maintained in a state of efficiency.

*Sir HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said the real question was as to who should be the judge of the structural efficiency of the schools. The President of the Board of Education often told the Committee that he had great experience in dealing with local authorities. Well, other members of the Committee had also experience in that direction. Did the right hon. Gentleman find that local authorities had always perfect judgment as to the proper efficiency of school buildings? In his own experience over and over again they had had to find fault with premises of local authorities just as much as they had had to find fault with the premises of voluntary schools. Both classes of schools were earning public grants, and the standard of efficiency must be judged only by the public department which allocated the grants. It was not fair that one body of managers, who were called the local authority, should be set as judges of the work of another set of local managers. It was far better to leave the judgment entirely to the Board of Education.

*Mr. BRIDGEMAN said that as the Member for West St. Pancras had referred to some remarks of his he might be allowed to say a word in explanation. What he stated last night was that he was not prepared to accept the Report of the London County Council on the sanitary and structural conditions of voluntary schools in London. He did not say that that Report had in it political bias, but that the action of the London County Council with regard to the administration of the Education Act was marked from the first with the strongest possible political bias. It was not against the hon. Gentleman, for whom he had the greatest respect, and who was deeply interested in the cause of education, that he levelled this accusation. It was against those who controlled the policy of the London County Council. As he said last night he defied anyone to say that that Council was not controlled by political reasons. ["No."] He could prove what he said by a speech delivered in November, 1904.

The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said the hon. Gentleman would not be in order in opening a question about the London County Council.

*Mr. BRIDGEMAN said the hon. Gentleman opposite had made a personal reference to a speech of his.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said it was answered, and they could not go into it again.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN said they were not prepared to accept the Report of the London County Council in preference to that of the Board's inspectors. The point of the Amendment was that they should have something more than the Report of the local education authority to go upon, and that the authority to which they ought to submit was that of the inspectors of the Board of Education.

LORD BALCARRES said he was not quite satisfied, but he did not wish to divide the Committee, and would therefore beg leave to withdraw the Amendment. He was not aware that the hon. Member for West St. Pancras was Chairman of the Education Committee of the London County Council when he made certain remarks yesterday, and, quite apart from the position which the hon. Gentleman occupied, he hoped he would accept his assurance that there was nothing personal towards him in the statement.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan), moved an Amendment requiring that improvements made to a school building should be "not prejudicial to the use of it by the owners for any purpose consistent with the trust." One of the first communications received by him in reference to the Bill dealt with this point. Some of the buildings contained rooms of a considerable size used for purposes not wholly educational, but of great social value. Such rooms were often divided into classrooms by partitions, which, though impervious to sound, were easily removed. It was possible for local authorities to insist on their being replaced by thick walls, thus entirely defeating the intentions of the owners of the building, who wished to use the rooms sometimes for public worship or for recreations and amusements of a most innocent and laudable kind. The object of the Amendment was to protect buildings from capricious or unreasonable alterations, and to make it certain that the school-houses would be reserved during the tenancy of the local authority for the purposes of elementary education.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, after the word 'improvements,' to insert the words 'not prejudicial to the use of it by the owners for any purpose consistent with the trust.'"—(*Sir Francis Powell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. DILLON maintained that this Amendment was not in the interest of the voluntary schools. If hon. Members insisted upon introducing these restrictions, they would give a very plausible reason to the local authority for declaring that the voluntary schools should not be taken over by them. He had always said that the sub-section was a most valuable one and entirely in the interest of the voluntary schools. He thought there was ample protection given by the sub-section. The words were—

"That the local education authority during the continuance of the arrangement keep the school house in good repair, and are enabled to make any alterations and improvements which in the opinion of the local education authority (or in case of dispute in the opinion of the Board of Education) may be reasonably required by the authority."

There were two courses open to the Committee. One was to endeavour to get the Bill so amended as to meet their views; and the other was to declare war on the Bill absolutely, and to say that they would not consent to have it under any conditions whatever, and that every concession offered, or conciliatory speech made on behalf of the Government, was really a fresh insult to those who did not like the Bill as drafted. The second alternative did not represent the position he was going to take at all. He thought they ought to acknowledge that the Government in putting in Sub-section (a) were protecting the voluntary schools. They ought to give the Government credit for that good intention. Instead of quarrelling over Sub-section (a), he thought it would be better to pass on to the consideration of some of the very important Amendments of which notice had been given with respect to the clause. If they discussed Amendments of this kind at such length, there would be no opportunity for discussing the other Amendments.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought that the hon. Member who had just defended the Government had mistaken the intention of the mover of the Amendment and the class of schools which he had in view. There were other schools besides those belonging to the Roman Catholics where this Amendment was perhaps more needed, because they were used for a greater variety of purposes than the Roman Catholic schools. Was it not reasonable that there should be an appeal where an alteration was proposed in a school which might be suitable during the hours of elementary education, but was not reasonable for the hours when the school was being used for other public or private purposes?

MR. DILLON: There is an appeal in this sub-section to the Board of Education.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the local authority might suggest to the Board of Education the desirableness of certain alterations being made. Those alterations might be absolutely reasonable, but they had a side which touched the interests of the trustees and the private owner. From that point of view the alterations might be unreasonable.

MR. BIRRELL: In a case of dispute I should hear both sides.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What harm does the Amendment do?

MR. DILLON: The Amendment in my opinion would give the local authority a reasonable ground for saying, "We won't take over the school, because we may be unreasonably restricted in making reasonable alterations."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked how the education authority was going to be unreasonably obstructed. The general desire of the Committee was, he believed, that the interests of the two parties to the bargain should be looked after, and he wanted the Government to do something to protect the owners of the schools from the possibility which the mover of the Amendment had in view.

MR. BIRRELL said that the interests of all parties were safeguarded by the sub-section in the Bill, which must have escaped the attention of the right hon. Gentleman. The duty was thrown on the Board of Education to act as an arbitrator between the two disputants, and it had to consider whether it was absolutely necessary in the interests of the education of the children that suggested alterations in a school should be carried out. If they were absolutely necessary they must be carried out. If the owners were not able to substantiate their case, no doubt the Board of Education would insist upon the alterations being carried out. If the alterations were not of an important character the Board of Education would act accordingly. The necessary protection was afforded in Sub-section (a), and he thought they might be allowed to proceed with the discussion of the clause.

MR. WYNDHAM said no one had stated more distinctly than the Minister for Education that during Saturday and Sunday and five evenings in the week these schools would remain the property of those who owned them according to law. This was an Amendment of an innocuous character to make that clear. Why did the right hon. Gentleman not accept it? Why did he leave the sinister impression that if difficulties arose proceedings might be taken as if the Bill was of a totally different character?

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said the object of the Amendment was to provide that no alterations should be made which would prejudice the use of the buildings by the owners for the purposes of the trust deed apart from educational purposes. He asked the Committee to consider from that point of view what the position was. It appeared to be the desire of hon. Members opposite that the local authority should only acquire the right to use the schools for five days a week, and that for all the rest of the time—all the evenings, the whole of Saturday, and the whole of Sunday—they should be kept for the use of the denomination to which they originally belonged. The local authority must not alter a school, according to the Amendment, in a way "prejudicial to the use of it by the owner for any purpose consistent with the trust." Were those the schools which the local authority was to be compelled to take over? This was a most excellent object lesson to the Government, and he hoped they would take it to heart.

*Sir FRANCIS POWELL asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Leave was not granted.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 70; Noes, 349. (Division List No. 118.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie,H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Coates,E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy,Laurence (Kent,Ashford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill,HenryStaveley(Staffordsh.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hn. Col.W.
King,SirHenry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee,Arthur H. (Hants,Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S.(Marylebone, W.)
Smith,F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wortley,Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Francis Powell and Sir Henry Craik.

NOES.

Abraham,William (Cork, N.E.).
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Benn,JohnWilliams(Devonport
Benn,W.(Tow'rHamlets,S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black,ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton,T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies,David (MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion.)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles

Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R.W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth,Cecil B. (Worc'r
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithness-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul

Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (S.Pancras, E.
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,Chas. N. (Doncaster)
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.

O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W.D.(Colchester)
Pearson,W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price,C.E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Price,Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W. E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards,Thomas (W.Monmth.
Richards,T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann,Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw,Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.

Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, D. Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Thorne, William
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, N.)
Whitehead, Howland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin&Nairn)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. Huddersfi'd
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN said he had an Amendment on the Paper to provide that the local authority should be able to make arrangements with the trustees as well as with the private owners of school houses as to alterations and improvements. Before dealing with it he should like to have some explanation on the subject from the Minister of Education.

Mr. BIRRELL said it was quite true that he had promised to consider an Amendment standing in the name of the right hon. Member for Newport, which dealt with private owners of school houses. But in his opinion it would be undesirable to extend the arrangement any further than to private owners who had a permanent interest in the school house, and who resided on the adjacent property.

Mr. WYNDHAM said that the Minister for Education had in the course of the afternoon obliterated the distinction between private owners and trustees. He had said that he was unable to see any distinction between the owner who owned the whole fabric and the trustees; but now he was resuscitating it. He really hoped that the Minister for Education would extend this provision to trustees.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN said that the object of his Amendment was to give the local education authority free scope in dealing with private owners or trustees. Unless this full scope was given to the local authority to treat with trustees as well as private owners it might lead to more friction than was necessary.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, after the word 'improvements,' to insert the words 'or to make any arrangements with the owners of the school house as to alterations and improvements.'"—(*Mr. Bridgeman.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. LANE-FOX said that the whole object of the Amendment was to give the owner the opportunity of making the improvements if he wished, and if he did not wish it to allow the local authority to execute the improvements themselves. The owner of the property would be much better conversant with the needs of the people and the kind of improvement to be made than the local authority. He hoped the Minister for Education would allow trustees as well as private owners to carry out needful improvements and so diminish friction.

Mr. BIRRELL said the only exceptions the Government felt justified in making were with regard to the private owner who was living in the district. Owners and trustees generally were people difficult to find or to communicate with; they would often be abroad, and it would be impossible to get all their consents. He could only make an exception in favour of the private owner living in the district.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 87; Noes, 321. (Division List No. 119.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fardell, Sir T. George

Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington

Percy, Earl
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid).
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Bridgeman and Mr. Lane-Fox.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (Tow'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred

Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.

Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-shire
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey

Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R L.(Caithn'ss sh.
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W.Bateman (Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H.(Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold

Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H.Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J,
Masterman, C. F. G.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Moss, Samuel
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,Charles N(Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C.E. (Edinburgh, Central
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestly, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)

Robertson, Rt.Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson,SirG Scott(Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann,Chas. E.(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas, SirA.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E,
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)

Williamson, G. H. (Worcester)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh.,N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T (Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough) moved to insert the following words—

"But a separate account shall be kept of all moneys expended by the local education authority on repairs, alterations, and improvements of the structure, and the amounts so expended shall be taken into consideration in fixing, at any future time, the amount to be paid by the local education authority in respect of the hire or purchase of the building; and in the event of the non-renewal of the agreement by reason of the action or demands of the owners, the local education authority shall be empowered to recover from the owners the unexhausted value of such structural improvements, alterations, and repairs."

The main object of his Amendment was to safeguard the local education authorities against unreasonable actions when it was necessary to renew agreements for the use of schools. He thought, if the Amendment were accepted, it would promote good feeling between the local education authorities and the owners of non-provided schools. It would also tend to prevent the erection of a lot of small schools, which did not tend to educational efficiency. He was quite sure that unless they had some provision and safeguard such as this, friction would arise, and the local education authorities would build new schools themselves. Therefore, he thought the Amendment was, not only in the interests of the general public, but also in the interests of the owners of the schools. He would point out also that the owners of the schools would enjoy the benefits of the alterations and improvements during two whole days of the week, and five evenings a week, whereas the local education authority, who carried out the improvements and alterations at their own expense, would only have the benefit of them for a few hours on five days a week. Therefore, it was not unreasonable to say that the local authority should have the unexhausted value of structural improvements, alterations, and repairs.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 26, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words, 'but a separate account shall be kept of all moneys expended by the local education authority on repairs, alterations, and improvements of the structure, and the amounts so expended shall be taken into consideration in fixing, at any future time, the amount to be paid by the local education authority in respect of the hire or purchase of the building; and in the event of the non-renewal of the agreement by reason of the action or demands of the owners, the local education authority shall be empowered to recover from the owners the unexhausted value of such structural improvements, alterations, and repairs.'"

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. LOUGH said the provision which the hon. Member would like to insert no doubt referred to a very prudent arrangement which it might be desirable to make, but the question was whether it was desirable to make it a statutory arrangement. Although there might be circumstances under which it might be a good thing to make such a bargain as was suggested by the Amendment, yet there might be circumstances in which a different kind of bargain might be proper.

*MR. LEVY said his provision would only come into operation when the question of the renewal of the lease arose, and if it were inserted it would afford a safeguard to the local authorities and tend to prevent the owners from being unreasonable.

MR. LOUGH said the words assumed that the local authorities were unable to make a bargain for themselves. They could not assume that. They must assume that they were capable local authorities and well fitted to make a bargain. If they altered the arrangements in this way, they should alter the whole structure of the scheme. Therefore, although, as he had said, the arrangement might be a very desirable one in many cases, he did not think they ought to make it statutory. Moreover, the Amendment extended to repairs, and he thought to apply such a provision to repairs would be rather straining the principles of justice. The local authority carried out their own alterations for their own purposes and they might not be available for other purposes. Moreover, the Amendment would involve the necessity of recovering the money personally, which he did not think his hon. friend would desire. For all these reasons the Government thought it better to retain the idea embodied in the Bill, that the local authority should make its own bargain, and therefore they could not accept the Amendment of his hon. friend.

*MR. LEVY asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

The Amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY moved an Amendment to provide that where a school house was made over by agreement to the local education authority for the purposes of the Bill, and owing to an increase in population, a demand by the Board of Education, or some other circumstance an enlargement was found necessary, the owner should have the option of carrying out such alterations at his own cost and of recouping himself by charging such a fair percentage on his expenditure as would be equivalent to the amount the local authority would have to spend in carrying out the work in its own way. It was, of course, an underlying principle of the Amendment that the owner would have to satisfy in full the requirements made by the local authority in respect of space, ventilation, etc. But an owner might have built a school more architecturally beautiful than was necessary for strictly utilitarian purposes, and if alterations were carried out in the strictly economical way in which the local authority would be bound to carry them out the architectural beauty of the building might be destroyed. He therefore thought the owner should have the option of carrying out the work himself with absolute security to the local education authority. The Amendment would not only add to the inducement of the owner in the first instance to come to an agreement with the local education authority, but would also obviate a claim being raised at the expiration of the lease because of the mischief done to the owner's property.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 26, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words, 'but the owners shall have the option of carrying out such alterations or improvements at their own expense, and to charge, in addition to any arrangements already made, such a sum as may represent a fair percentage of such expenditure.'"

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BIRRELL said the Government were quite prepared to consider this Amendment. He had before him a rough draft of words which he thought would give effect to it, but they would probably require revision before the report stage. He would then be prepared with words which would carry out the right hon. Gentleman's intention.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY said in view of the right hon. Gentleman's proposal he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD BALCARRES moved to omit Sub-head (*b*) of Sub-section (1), which provided that one of the conditions of an arrangement for taking over a schoolhouse should be that it was free from any trusts or conditions which were not consistent with the conduct of a public elementary school or restricted the full control of the school by the local authority. He moved the Amendment formally in order that the President of the Board of Education might give some explanation of the sub-section. The impression one got from it was that it was an attack on the existing system of trusts, and the latter part appeared to be a diminution of those powers of delegation which were to be conferred on county councils by Clause 26, and on which the right hon. Gentleman in his introductory speech laid so much stress.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out paragraph (b), of sub-section (1).—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question put, "That paragraph (b), of sub-section (1), to the word 'any,' stand part of the clause."

MR. BIRRELL said the object of the sub-section was, he thought, obivous enough, namely, to liberate a schoolhouse when obtained by the local education authority from trusts which would bind the authority in a denominational sense. It was, therefore, essential that if the main principles of the Bill were to have any effect—if there was to be full popular control and a cessation of religious tests—that some such sub-section as this should be inserted. If the sub-section were struck out a number of denominational schools might continue to be hampered by trusts absolutely alien to the main purpose of the Bill.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON thought all were agreed that if the local education authority was to have the use of the building during school hours it should be unfettered in the use of it for the purposes of a public elementary school; but he should have thought words might safely have been introduced to ensure that the sub-section did not give away privileges which it was proposed to confer by Clauses 3 and 4. This was one of several instances in which those privileges were rendered nugatory by other words in the Bill.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) asked for the Chairman's ruling as to an Amendment of which he had given notice, but which was not on the Paper. The Amendment would enable the owners of a voluntary school to include in their arrangements with the local education authority not merely the facilities under Clause 3, but also Christian instruction under the Cowper-Temple clause on every day. If his Amendment were not in order he would have to say now what he desired to bring forward.

THE CHAIRMAN said he had not had time to look at the Amendment, but if it were in order he would put the Question in such a way as would save the hon. Member.

MR. WYNDHAM said the Minister for Education in opposing the Amendment stated that he must preserve local control. Surely that phrase was now threadbare. Under Clause 1 a general rule had been laid down restricting the liberty of the local authority to Cowper-Temple regulations. Under Clauses 3 and 4 it was said there was to be a certain degree of exception allowed for those preferring denominational education. He did not say it was a very logical plan. But why encumber the Bill by putting in Sub-section (b)? It was wholly unnecessary.

MR. BIRRELL said it was unfortunate that Members on the front bench opposite did not agree one with another. The hon. Baronet believed the sub-section was necessary, but raised the point that its language might conflict with the provisions of Clauses 3 and 4. He was advised that this would not be the case; but he would undertake to consider whether any saving words were necessary in order to ensure that nothing should be done that would in any way interfere with the full force of these subsequent clauses.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL said the Amendment raised the serious question of tampering with trust deeds. There were many trustees who felt that they ought under no circumstances to depart from the conditions of their trust deeds. The feelings of those trustees were grossly disregarded by this sub-section, and the legislature ought not lightly to set about so dangerous a policy. Tampering with trust deeds was a thing which had never been attempted to this extent before. He knew that the right hon. Gentleman in a speech the other day stated that something of the kind was done in 1902. But it was done in a more limited way, and there were even stronger protests made then against its being done. He felt perfectly justified, therefore, in protesting against what was likely to become more and more a dangerous policy, and in insisting that no such general policy should be inserted in a Bill of this kind. The Committee ought to consider very seriously before passing Sub-section (b). The trusts had proved of great public benefit and utility, and he thought it would very ungrateful on the part of the legislature so summarily to disregard them.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he wished to point out the position in which religious education would be left in the transferred voluntary schools by this sub-section if passed without alteration. Under the sub-section as it stood the owners or trustees of voluntary schools would be able to bargain with the local education authority for special facilities on two days of the week. That was the limit of their interest in religious instruction under Sub-section (b) if it went through as it now stood. If he was to believe some of the speeches to which he had listened from hon. Members on the other side of the House he must suppose that in regard to Cowper-Temple teaching they would prefer religious instruction in the transferred schools to be limited to two days of the week. He did not believe that the great majority of those who owned the schools would share that indifference. He believed it would add to the utility of the sub-section if power was given to the owners or trustees of voluntary schools to include in their bargain with the local authority a stipulation for the simple Bible teaching which was permitted under the Cowper-Temple Clause of the Act of 1870. He thought the Parliamentary Secretary would admit that the transferred schools would, unless something of this kind was put in, be left to the absolute discretion of the local education authority.

The CHAIRMAN: This is an amendment that Sub-section (b) be left out. The hon. Member is now proposing to add something to the sub-section. He is, therefore, not in order.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he was arguing on the merits of the sub-section. The point was whether the sub-section should remain in the Bill or not.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is entitled to do that, but he did not seem to be addressing his remarks to that point when I stopped him.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR said that one of the weaknesses of the position in connection with the Act of 1870 was that there was no security for the continuance of religious instruction at all. He submitted that this House had a particular duty to fulfil in regard to the transferred voluntary schools. If these schools were going to be transferred it would not satisfy the religious sentiment of those who owned or used them now to have facilities only two days a week for special religious instruction, while at the option of the local education authority there might be no religious teaching at all on the remaining days of the week. This House had rejected the secular solution of the question, and that, he thought, was a matter of general satisfaction. Having arrived at that decision, he submitted that it was the duty of the Committee to see that in the denominational schools, hitherto dedicated to religious instruction, there should be security for the simple Bible teaching allowed under the Cowper-Temple clause. He trusted that words would be introduced here or later which would secure by statute that in the transferred voluntary schools there should be not only the special facilities for which their owners would contend on two days of the week, but also some definite Christian teaching on the other days such as was permitted under the Act of 1870.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. Member for the East Toxteth Division had raised one of the most important questions in the whole problem of the education of the country. The hon. Member had suggested, if he understood him rightly, that there should be a differentiation between a transferred voluntary school and an existing provided school, the difference consisting in this: the transferred school was to make Cowper-Temple teaching obligatory, while it was not obligatory in the case of the ordinary provided school.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR said that on the question of making simple Christian teaching statutory some of them had an Amendment on Clause 1 which was ruled out of order as not being in the proper place. He would like to ask what would be the proper place for such an Amendment?

*The CHAIRMAN said it was hardly his place to answer that question. He could only deal with an Amendment when it was put before him.

Mr. WYNDHAM said that if Clause 2 passed in its present shape, even subject to the concessions foreshadowed by the Minister of Education, they would have lost the opportunity of discussing the question that those schools which had been religious schools should remain religious schools.

*The CHAIRMAN said that that was only another way of putting the question which he had already stated he was not in a position to answer.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 382; Noes, 97. (Division List No. 120.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff.)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs(
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex E. Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ells, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie,
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner

Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H, D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G. (Croydon Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip

Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverhampt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, A. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G, Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.

Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Soares, Ernest J
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyluph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H.J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H. (Somerset, E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn

Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wilson, P.W. (St.Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T(Huddersfi'd

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO.
Ashley, W. W.
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S Harmood-
Baring,Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H.T.(Londonderry, N.)
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone,E.
Coates, E.Feetham(Lewisham)
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Craig, CaptainJames(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy,Laurence(Kent, Ashford
Harrison Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey,F.W.F. (BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Renry Seymour(Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Pease,Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith ,AbelH.(Hertford, East)
Smith,F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley,Hon.Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thomson-W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wortley, Rt.Hon.C.B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Rawlinson and Sir William Bull.

And, it being after Eleven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. George Whiteley, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) moved, "That the House do now adjourn."

Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD asked what would be the order of business for to-morrow.

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY that said the first order would be Irish Labourers' Bill, the second the Finance Bill, the third the Revenue Bill.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE asked what business would be taken on Friday.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY said he wished to know what would be the fourth and fifth Bills taken. It was quite clear that during the last week or so the Patronage Secretary to the Treasury had been ready to spring Bills on the House.

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY said the fourth Bill would be the Post Office Sites Bill; the fifth, the Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Bill; the sixth, the Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill, and others. Nothing had been yet decided as to what business would be taken on Friday.

Adjourned at twelve minutes after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 13*th June*, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

North East Lincolnshire Water Bill. Lords Amendments considered and agreed to. Bristol Corporation Bill. Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway (Purchase) Bill [Lords]; Crellin's Patents Bill [Lords]; Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords]; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill [Lords]; Manchester Churches Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Southport and Lytham Tramroad (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]; Trent Navigation Company Bill [Lords]; Warboys (Union of Districts) Drainage Bill [Lords]. Read a second time and committed.

Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. As amended, considered; to be read a third time to-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to the Metropolitan Borough of Saint Pancras," presented by Mr. Runciman; supported by Mr. John Burns.

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill. Ordered, That, in the case of the Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill, Standing Order 193a be suspended and the Bill be read the first time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 250.]

Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords]. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; From Clapham (Yorks); Danby and Castleton; Edmonton; Fylingdales; Glaisdale; Goathland; Grosmont; Hawsker; Hinderwell and Staithes; Langton-on-Swale; Montford; Sleights; Sneaton; Stirchley; Tilehurst; and Ugthorpe; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Basildon, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Bardsey; Bardsey cum Rigton; Chapelthorpe; Crondall; Darton; Deal (two); Holmfirth; Langton on Swale; Lindley; Mirfield (three); Monk Hopton; Newborough; Randwick (two); Saddington (two); Sandal; Thornhill (two); Thornhill Lees (two); Upper Hopton; Wakefield (four); West Haddon; Wetherby; and Woolley; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table.

HOUSE-LETTING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Greenock, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petitions for alteration of Law; from Battle; Elham; Hardingstone; and, Hastings; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL (LORDS).

Petitions for alteration; From Aberdeen (North); Arbroath; Banff (two); Bath (two); Brighouse; Clapham (two); Dover; Elland; Harwich (two); Houghton le Spring; Islington (East) (two); Leamington and Warwick; Leeds (two); Leeds (North); Ludlow; Newbury; North Worcestershire; Nuneaton (two); St. Rollox, Glasgow; Shrewsbury (two); Stranraer (two); West Malling; Whitehaven; and, Worcester; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES (IRELAND).

Return [presented June 7th] to be printed. [No. 193.]

LABOURERS' COTTAGES (IRELAND).

Return [presented June 7th] to be printed. [No. 194.]

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the City and County of Bristol and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the Horfield Ward of the City and County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

1. Inquiry into charities (County of Wilts). Further Return relative thereto [ordered August 9th, 1901; Mr. Griffith-Boscawen]; to be printed. [No. 195.]

2. Inquiry in Charities (County of Berks). Further Return relative thereto [ordered March 28th, 1905; Mr. Griffith-Boscawen]; to be printed. [No. 196.]

CROWN LANDS (RECOVERY OF CROWN RENTS).

Committee to consider of authorising the limitation of time for proceedings for the recovery by the Crown of quit and other Rents in Ireland in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to amend the Crown Lands Acts, 1829 to 1894 (King's Recommendation signified), To-morrow.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Purchase of Mr. Stoney's Estate, County Mayo.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the acreage of land purchased by the Congested Districts Board from Mr. Stoney, of Rosturk Castle, county Mayo, dividing it into arable and mountain land respectively, what was the date of purchase and the price paid for the whole, what was the price paid for the arable and what for the mountain land respectively; did the Board re-sell any of the land to Mr. Stoney, and, if so, when; whether it was arable or mountain, and how does the price Mr. Stoney paid for it compare with that which the Board paid him in the first instance for the same; how much did the Board re-sell to Mr. Stoney and on whose advice, and why did they re-sell it to him; did the Board use for grazing purposes the mountain which they re-sold to Mr. Stoney, and, if so, for what period; did it pay the Board to take in cattle and sheep for grazing purposes from the neighbouring tenants, and, if so, what was the amount of profit that was realised; if it was run at a loss for the grazing of the sheep and cattle of neighbouring tenants, what was the amount of the loss to the Board; could he give the names of the tenants who sent cattle and sheep to graze on this mountain while it was in the hands of the Board, the number of cattle and sheep belonging to each and the amount paid per head for cattle and sheep; did the Board graze on it with their own stock, if so, for what length of time; what was the amount of profit or loss during the time the Board grazed on it with their own stock.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The total area of the land purchased by the Congested Districts Board from Mr. Vesey Stoney is 5,217 acres, of which 2,292 acres were tenanted. Of the remaining 2,925 acres, 405 acres were arable and 2,520 mountain land. 5,019 acres were bought in June, 1900, and the purchase of 198 acres, not yet vested, was agreed upon on May 1st, 1905. The price paid for the first purchase was £7,300 and for the second £3,975. These prices included £5,667 for the 405 acres of arable land in the landlord's hands, and £800 for the 2,520 acres of mountain land. The Board were enabled to purchase the second portion of the estate by agreeing to a condition made by the owner, viz., that they would resell to him 1,965 acres of mountain land at £600, the price which the Board had paid for it. Mr. Stoney paid this sum on May 3rd, 1906. This re-sale was made on the advice of the Board's officers, in order to obtain 175 acres of arable land for enlarging the small holdings on the estate. The tenants did not send sufficient cattle to graze the mountain land, and the Board therefore bought thirty-four cattle on April 27th, 1903, and put them on the land. As the cattle did not thrive, they were taken off the mountain on October 15th, 1903. Two bullocks were drowned in ditches, and there was a loss of £6, including a portion of the herd's salary. The Board received for the grazing of the tenants' cattle on the mountain; in 1901, £9 5s. 6d; in 1902, £13 3s. 6d.; in 1903, £3 5s. 9d.; and in 1904, £9 16s. 4d.; total, £35 11s. 1d. It would not be convenient to give, in reply to a Question, separate particulars as to the cattle sent to graze by the various tenants in each of four years, but it may be stated in general terms that the number of tenants was over forty, the number of cattle or horses sent to graze by each tenant ranged from one to ten, and the rate per head per month from 1s. to 2s. 6d. The total profit on the tenants' grazing for four years was £8 14s. 8d., viz., £35 11s. 1d., rents received, less a proportion of herd's wages at £1 per month, estimated at £26 16s. 5d. The loss involved in the Board's six months' grazing operation was, as already stated, £6.

Candidates for Naval Cadetship.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state how many candidates competed for cadetships, how many passed into H.M.S. "Britannia," Dartmouth, in July, 1901, and July, 1902, respectively; and will he state how many candidates presented themselves for the first examination held for admission to the Royal Naval College, Osborne; how many were successful; and how many who then entered the college still remain.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) In July, 1901, 239 candidates were examined for cadetships and sixty-four entered. In July, 1902, 226 were examined for cadetships and seventy-seven entered. In July, 1903, 278 boys offered themselves for cadetships, eighty were selected to attend the qualifying examination, and seventy five entered Osborne. Of these, sixty are now at Dartmouth.

Irish Land Purchase Interest—Case of Michael Lucey.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Estates Commissioners has been called to the case of Michael Lucey, Kilcranthan, county Cork, tenant on the Hunt estate; are they aware that the tenant was verbally informed that interest on the purchase money would be charged at the rate of 3¼ per cent.; that when signing the purchase agreement before a magistrate it was not read over to him, and he was never acquainted with the fact that the interest was 4 per cent., which he would not have agreed to had he known the contents of the agreement; and what steps the Commissioners are prepared to take in this case.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that in the purchase agreement signed by Michael Lucey, the rate of interest payable by him, pending the completion of the sale, is set out at 4 per cent. The Commissioners have no knowledge that the tenant was verbally informed that the rate of interest to be paid by him was 3¼ per cent. The agreement was signed in the presence of a magistrate, and it does not appear that the agreement was first read over and explained to Lucey. The necessity for such explanation does not seem to have arisen, seeing that Lucey is not illiterate. The Commissioners are prepared to consider any application in reference to the matter which the tenant may desire to make, due notice being given to the landlord.

Revaluation of City of Dublin.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that revaluation of the city of Dublin was a part of the consideration offered to the townships of Clontarf and Kilmainham to induce them to consent to be added to the City of Dublin; that in consequence of the delay in revaluation they are not getting what they contracted for; and will he represent to the Treasury the importance of commencing the revaluation at once?

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I have been able to obtain no evidence in support of the hon. Member's statement in the first part of the Question; indeed such information as I possess tells somewhat against his assumption. I am advised that the delay is probably not inflicting any hardship on the townships in question.

Evicted Tenants on the Knight of Glin Estates.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that there are several evicted tenants on the estate of the Knight of Glin, situate at Glin, in the county of Limerick; and whether he will direct the Estates Commissioners to send down an inspector to report on these cases, with a view to bringing about their reinstatement?

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received applications from fourteen persons seeking reinstatement on the estate in question. The Commissioners will have the cases inquired into by one of their inspectors in due course.

Reinstatement of Michael Dalton, of Pallas.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners will approach the landlord, the Rev. John T. Waller, of Pallaskenry, who evicted the late Michael Dalton from his holding at Pallas in the year 1884, and who is working the evicted farm, in order that they may reinstate his representative.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that Michael Dalton has not lodged an application for reinstatement. If he should do so his case will be inquired into.

Eviction of Mrs. Baker, of Ballingrane.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the tenants on Lord Southwell's estate, in the county of Limerick, have signed agreements to purchase their holdings, and if he can say how the Estates Commissioners intend to deal with the case of the representative of Mrs. Baker, of Ballingrane, who was evicted from her holding; and whether they will refuse to complete the sale until the evicted tenants' representative be reinstated?

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that agreements for purchase by 120 tenants on Lord Southwell's estate in the county Limerick have been lodged. An application for reinstatement as an evicted tenant on this estate has been received from Mrs. Baker and will be duly inquired into.

Reinstatement of Thomas M'Hugh, of Rockfield, Rathkeale.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Thomas M'Hugh was evicted from his holding at Rockfield, Rathkeale, by Lord Southwell; and whether now that the sale is about to be completed, the Estates Commissioners will see that his holding be given to him?

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from Thomas M'Hugh, and will have inquiries made into his case as soon as practicable.

Eviction at Ballinagould Croagh, County Limerick.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that William and Thomas Bourke were evicted from their holdings at Ballinagould Croagh, in the county of Limerick, by the Reverend John T. Waller, of Pallaskenry, in the county of Limerick, in the year 1895 for non-payment of rent; and whether he will say what action the Estates Commissioners intend to take in the matter with the view to bringing about the reinstatement of one of them and the representative of the other who died since the eviction.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have received applications for reinstatement from the persons named, and will have the cases inquired into in due course.

Railway and Canal Rates in Ireland.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is intended to institute an inquiry into the working of the railway and canal systems operating in Ireland with a view to enable cheaper rates and greater facilities; and, if so, whether the evidence will be taken in Ireland at various suitable centres.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) A Commission on canals is already sitting, and will, in due course, visit Ireland and inquire there. The question of instituting an inquiry into the railway system is under the consideration of the Irish Government.

Cost of Up-keep of the Imperial Institute.

MR. LAIDLAW (Renfrewshire, E.): To ask the First Commissioner of Works whether, as stated in the Treasury letter of Sir Francis Mowatt to the Under-Secretary of State for India, published at page 58 of House of Commons Cd. No. 268, of Session 1900, the cost of the repair, upkeep, and decoration of the Imperial Institute Buildings, of maintaining the heating apparatus, and of defraying rates falls upon the Office of Works, with the exception that the cost of repairs, decoration, and lighting of the Indian section, or some parts thereof, is met from Indian revenues: and whether he will give a Return showing full particulars of the total cost from the date of transfer of the Institute to the present time of all repairs, alterations, and other expenses incurred by the Office of Works, distinguishing as far as possible the proportion of the cost incurred for the London University and the Imperial Institute sections of the buildings during the period the University has been accommodated there?

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) The charge for the external maintenance of the Imperial Institute Buildings is borne upon votes, the Imperial Institute and the University of London bear the charges for internal maintenance out of funds administered by those bodies. The expenditure defrayed by the Office of Works is as follows: the proportions being charged in the ratio of Imperial Institute two-fifths, and the London University three-fifths:—

Year.	Proportion incurred for London University.	Proportion incurred for Imperial Institute.
	£	£
1899–1900 - - - - -	3,651	2,434
1900–1901 - - - - -	12,430	8,286
1901–1902 - - - - -	973	649
1902–1903 - - - - -	4,078	2,719
1903–1904 - - - - -	3,168	2,112
1904–1905 - - - - -	2,279	1,520
1905–1906 - - - - -	9,172	6,114
1st April—12th June, 1906 - - -	21	14
	£35,772	£23,848

Grant to University College of Wales at Aberstwyth.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether the grant of £4,000 per year paid to the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth is for general expenses or for certain specific purposes; and whether he will agree to present a Return to the House of the salaries and wages paid to the staff of the college during the last five years.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The grant is in aid of the general expenses of the college. I have no official information as to the salaries and wages paid to the college staff, which are not subject to Treasury control.

Elementary Education.

MR. SPICER (Hackney, Central): To ask the President of the Board of Education what was the total cost of elementary education in the years 1873, 1879, 1884, and 1900, and the number of children in average attendance for each of the above-mentioned years; and how much was received towards the cost during the same years from grants, rates, fees, endowments, and voluntary subscriptions, respectively.

(Answered by Mr. Birrell.)

Table showing Abstract of Income for maintenance of Public Elementary Day and Evening Schools inspected for Annual Grants.

Year.	Government Grants.		Rates.	Voluntary Subscriptions.	Endowment.	Fees and Books.	Other Sources.	Total Income.	Total Expenditure Day and Evening.	Average Attendance.
1873	Day and Evening	£ 772,072	£ *61,209	£ 539,502	£ 73,405	£ 688,296	£ 31,562	£ 2,166,046	£ 2,206,640	1,528,453
	Day Schools only	749,293	Not known	separately Evening	as distinct Schools.	from	—	2,143,267	—	1,482,480
1879	Day and Evening	1,828,703	636,792	754,134	136,079	1,372,365	48,841	4,776,914	4,773,825	2,647,525
	Day Schools only	1,804,165	Not known	separately Evening	as distinct Schools.	from	—	4,752,376	—	2,594,995
1884	Day and Evening	2,515,776	915,474	734,128	157,124	1,734,115	64,922	6,121,539	6,131,887	3,297,558
	Day Schools only	2,503,481	Not known	separately Evening	as distinct Schools.	from	—	6,109,244	—	3,273,124
1900	Day and Evening	8,002,981	2,959,717	812,104	156,012	262,135	‡144,037	12,336,986	12,453,006	4,872,465
	Day Schools only	†7,827,837	2,809,666	801,202	154,519	237,962	104,145	11,935,331	12,045,046	4,666,130

* Includes £4,157 paid by School Boards under Section 25, Act of 1870.

† This total is made up as follows: Annual Grant, £4,820,674; Fee Grant, £2,327,416; Aid Grant, £669,772; Science and Art Grants, £9,975.

‡ This total includes £35,930 County Council Grants to Evening Schools.

Moving of Male and Female Prisoners.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is customary for male and female prisoners to be moved together to and from prisons, which sometimes involves long railway journeys; and, if so, whether he will consider the desirability of making arrangements by which this practice may no longer be carried on.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Male and female prisoners are never removed together between one prison and another by the prison authorities; but it is, doubtless, the fact that when the police bring remand prisoners and prisoners committed for trial to prison, and take remand prisoners from prison to court, prisoners of both sexes sometimes travel together. It is not easy to see how this is to be avoided in country districts, where the number of police available is small and the prisons are far from some of the committing courts. The matter is one for the local police authorities, who have to deal with it as best they can. I agree with the hon. Member in thinking that it should be avoided as far as possible.

Docking Council Allotments.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the Allotments Act, 1887, empowers local authorities to acquire land for allotments within or without their district; whether the Local Government Board have required the Docking Rural Council to give the St. Edmund's allotments holders notice to quit at Michaelmas, on the ground that the Board cannot allow the Docking Council to control allotments out of their district; and, if so, what reasons have induced the Local Government Board to take this action.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am aware of the power conferred by The Allotments Act, 1887. In the present case the allotments appear to have been provided by the rural authority for a parish, part of which was afterwards formed into an urban district. The allotments are stated to have been situate in the urban area, but I am informed that the urban district council are not inclined to take them over. The rural district council seem to be within their powers in giving notice to the allotment holders, but they have not been required by the Local Government Board to do so.

Boarded-Out Poor Law Children.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state the number of Poor Law children at present boarded out within and beyond the union, respectively; also the number of committees which exist for the supervision of children boarded out within the union; and the number of children in their care.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) On January 1st last the numbers of pauper children who were boarded out within and beyond the union were 6,963 and 1,818, respectively. There are 284 authorised committees in respect of children boarded within the union, and the number of the children under their care is about 2,000.

Railway Brake Vans on Goods Trains.

MR. BELL (Derby): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the Rhymney Railway Company's violation of the Board of Trade Rules, issued under The Railways (Prevention of Accidents) Act, 1900, dated August, 1902, relating to running trains without brake vans between Cardiff Docks and Heath Junction, about two miles, gradient one in forty-five, load forty-five empties up and forty loaded trucks down; between Cardiff Docks and Llanishan, about three miles, gradient one in forty-five, similar loads, and several other sections; if he is aware that the guards in such cases have to ride on the buffers or on top of the loaded wagons to the detriment of their own safety; and whether he will take steps to compel the company to carry out the Board's rules regulating such working.

*(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) This matter has been recently brought to the notice of the Board of Trade and is engaging their attention. Whether or not the specified sections of line fall within the operation of the statutory rate referred to, I am advised that, with the

gradients mentioned, the provision of brake vans is necessary for safe working. I propose so to inform the Railway Company. The Company inform me that in every case where a train runs outside station limits they have already given instructions that an empty vehicle must be provided for the guard.

Pensions of Daughters of Deceased Members of the Indian Civil Service.

MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether in view of the fact that in the Bombay and Bengal Presidencies, daughters of deceased members of the Indian Civil Service draw as pensions £100 a year if living in England and 60 rupees a month, which amounts to £48 a year, if living in India, and that this difference is due to the fact that at the time this arrangement was made the rupee was worth about 2s. 3d., he will, now that the value of the rupee is only 1s. 4d., take measures to equalise the pensions drawn in India and those drawn in England.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The rates of pension drawn from the Bombay and Bengal Civil Funds by the children of subscribers resident in India and in England, respectively, were fixed by the subscribers, and no alteration in either rate was suggested when the funds were transferred to Government, though the rate of exchange had then fallen to about 1s. 8d. The Funds have no surplus assets, and the increase in the rupee value of pensions paid in England has already thrown a charge on the revenues of India. I am not prepared further to increase this charge by raising the rates of pension payable in India.

Army Meat Contracts.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that dissatisfaction has arisen amongst agriculturists on account of the change in the tender forms, which enables the meat of imported animals to be supplied to the troops stationed in Great Britain and Ireland; whether he can state the amount of money approximately which is paid to the importers for meat and forage raised outside the three Kingdoms; and whether he will represent to the Army Council the advisability of supporting the agriculturist taxpayer and employers resident in the three Kingdoms.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) In reply to the first part of the Question a few representations on the subject have been made to the War Office. As regards the second part of the Question, I am it would not be possible to give any even approximate figures without very elaborate inquiries. As regards the last part of the Question, I have nothing to add to the replies which I have already given to the hon. Member on the subject of the change in the tender forms.

Free Pardon for Patrick Ryan and Henry George Baxter.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been directed to the fact that on the sole evidence of Detective-Sergeant Rose, lately dismissed from the police force for giving false evidence, two lads named Patrick Ryan and Henry George Baxter were convicted, on 17th November, 1905, on a charge of attempting to pick pockets, but released on further inquiry establishing their innocence; whether he is aware that the wrongful conviction has injured the prospects of the lads referred to; and whether, in the circumstances, he can see his way to grant them a free pardon.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) On a reconsideration of all the circumstances, and after consultation with the magistrate who tried the case, I have advised His Majesty to grant a free pardon.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Obsolete War Vessels.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, during the last eighteen months, the usual sums of money required for the maintenance of the following vessels have been spent, viz., "Anson," "Howe," "Benbow," "Camperdown," and "Rodney," officially classed as first-class battleships, "Colossus," "Edinburgh," "Thunderer," and "Devastation," second-class battleships," "Hero," and "Conqueror," third-class battleships; whether these eleven battleships were not all omitted from the list of ships of the Royal Navy, on page 270c, at one time; and, if so, whether he can state the reason for including them again.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): One of these battleships is in commission as a gunnery training ship, and is the only one which has required any considerable sum for maintenance during the past eighteen months. Eight of the ships are in special reserve and have cost very little to maintain. Two are lying at the Holy Loch and have cost nothing beyond the expense of caretakers. All eleven are on the verge of becoming obsolete, and it is therefore a matter of choice whether or not they should be included in a list which is meant for general information and does not profess to contain any detailed classification. It has been considered on the whole preferable that they should be included for the present until they are finally removed from the list of the Navy.

Greenwich Observatory.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will take into consideration the advisability of approaching the London County Council with a view to substituting steam turbines for the reciprocating engines at present in use at the London County Council's power station at Greenwich, in order to abolish the vibration at present experienced at the Royal Observatory.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: At the present stage of this extremely serious question, the Admiralty do not consider that it would be in the interests of the public service to make any statement on the subject.

Chicago Canned Goods.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, if he will consider the advisability of sending a civilian officer of health with the officer to be detailed to visit the packing houses in the United States on behalf of the War Office, so that he can furnish a report, from a medical and sanitary point of view, as to the conditions under which the work is done and the sanitary condition of the buildings used by the contractors.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): Lieutenant-Colonel Hobbs is considered thoroughly qualified and capable of carrying out the inspection necessary to protect the interests of the War Department. It is not proposed to send out a civilian officer of health to assist him.

MR. LEA: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is not the fact that Colonel Hobbs is merely a layman; whether this is not a question in which a knowledge of medical science would be of great use, and whether a medical report would not go much further than a report by a military officer to allay the apprehensions that are felt in this country? Would not a medical report be of infinitely greater value?

*MR. HALDANE: Colonel Hobbs is a highly trained officer.

MR. LEA: Is it not the fact that the officers whose conduct is now being investigated by the South African War Stores Commission were also highly trained officers?

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): Does the right hon. Gentleman mean that this officer is highly trained in medical science?

*MR. HALDANE: I mean that he is highly trained in the Army Service Corps, and therefore is highly trained in this kind of work.

MR. SLOAN: Is he medically trained at all?

*MR. HALDANE: A man cannot do this work without a certain amount of medical knowledge.

Army Pensions.

*CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will consider the advisability of arranging that Army pensioners shall be paid weekly through the medium of post office orders at local post offices; and making it a criminal offence for people, other than the pensioners themselves or with their written permission, to apply for such pensions.

*Mr. HALDANE: The whole question of the payment of pensioners is receiving careful consideration. As regards the last part of the Question, sufficient provision will be found in the existing Acts, viz., The Pensions and Yeomanry Pay Act, 1884, and the Army Act.

Sea Passages for Officers' Wives.

*Captain FABER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the wives of officers ordered abroad are now allowed to join their husbands free of charge for sea passage.

*Mr. HALDANE: Yes, Sir. The new regulation applies to the families of officers embarked on or after April 1st, 1906, under the conditions set forth in Army Order 126 of June 1st.

South Africa—Court Martial on Natives.

Mr. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the evidence upon which the Natal natives were condemned to death by a court martial has been received at the Colonial Office, and whether he proposes to lay it upon the Table of the House.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N. W.): The evidence has been transmitted to the Secretary of State by the Governor, and Lord Elgin will ask him by telegraph whether there is any objection on the part of the Government of Natal to its publication.

Dinuzulu.

Mr. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the attention of His Majesty's Government has been called to the repeated charges of disloyalty against Dinuzulu, and whether, in view of Dinuzulu's position in Natal, His Majesty's Government or the Natal Government have taken any steps to protect him against the effect of the publication of such statement, or to prosecute the originators or publishers of these charges.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Reports and rumours have been prevalent charging Dinuzulu with disloyalty, but it has been made clear in the papers presented to Parliament that Mr. Saunders, the Commissioner for native affairs in Zululand, has not considered that those suspicions were justified. It is a matter for the Natal Government to decide what steps, if any, should be taken with regard to the publication of statements at once so injurious and unwise.

Mr. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: Can the hon. Gentleman tell me whether Dinuzulu has recently been summoned to appear at Pietermaritzburg, and, if so, on what ground the summons has been issued.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I believe the Governor, on the advice of Ministers, has requested Dinuzulu to go to Pietermaritzburg. Dinuzulu is unable to do so owing to the state of his health. I believe he is troubled with a very acute and painful disease, and that possibly he could only undertake such a journey at the peril of his life. He is sending several of his principal indunas, who will be fully empowered to speak frankly for him on all matters to the Governor; and I have reason to believe that the Governor and Ministers in Natal consider Dinuzulu's answer in that respect to be satisfactory.

Mr. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): Was it not a similar summons which drove Bambaata into rebellion?

Mr. CHURCHILL: In this case there appears to be no further difficulty.

Mr. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD asked whether the summons cast any reflection on Dinuzulu's loyalty, or whether he had been asked to go to Pietermaritzburg simply to give information to the Governor and other persons.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I should not consider that such a summons reflected in any way on Dinuzulu's loyalty. He has been invited to confer with the Government on native affairs at a time when those affairs are exercising all minds.

Kowloon-Canton Railway Scheme.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can communicate to the House any information regarding the Kowloon-Canton railway project, especially with regard to that section of the line which will pass through British territory; whether, for a period of about six months, rapid and substantial progress was made in the construction of this section of the line by the Public Works Department of the Government of the Crown Colony of Hong-Kong; that in the month of April the Colonial Government was relieved of further responsibility in the matter, and that the work is now being continued by a special staff of engineers appointed by the Crown Agents under the sole and direct authority of His Majesty's Colonial Office; and, if so, will he state the reasons for withdrawing the undertaking from the management of the Government of the Colony of Hong-Kong.

MR. CHURCHILL: Negotiations are still proceeding with the Chinese Government for the construction and working of a line from Canton to Kowloon. The British section, which is in active progress, has been constructed from the first under the supervision of the consulting engineer, and there has been no change of policy in this respect. All the steps taken have had the full concurrence of the Governor of Hong-Kong.

Chinese Coolies in South Africa—Repatriation Notice.

MR. SCOTT (Ashton-under-Lyne): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if the Government are prepared to withdraw the notice, recently circulated, on the advice of Lord Selborne, among the Chinese coolies in South Africa, relating to their repatriation, to which there has been little response, and issue a new notice informing the Chinese coolies that they would not be permitted to continue work in the mines in South Africa after the expiration of the term of their original three years' contract, and that they will then be required to leave the country.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State desires me to say that he sees no reason to withdraw the recent notice to the Chinese coolies of the conditions by which they may obtain relief from their contracts and return to China at Imperial expense. While it continues in force it is at the very least a safety valve against cruelty or oppression, and will become increasingly effective in proportion as the coolies grow familiar with it. No further proclamation to the coolies is in contemplation at the present time.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Does the proclamation really give the coolie an opportunity of going back to China?

[No Answer was returned.]

Prohibition of the Importation of Coolies.

MR. SCOTT: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, with a view to putting a stop to the further recruiting of Chinese coolies intended for South Africa under the license granted by the late Government, the Government is prepared to fix a date after which no more Chinese coolies will be allowed to enter South Africa.

*MR. CHURCHILL: My hon. friend should be aware from the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this question during the debate on the address, and from other statements of ministerial policy, that so soon as a constitution conferring responsible government upon the Transvaal has issued under the authority of the Crown, a date will be fixed when the existing Chinese Labour Ordinances will be revoked; and unless before that date expires the Transvaal Legislative Assembly re-enacts a new ordinance to which His Majesty's Government are not unable to assent, the whole system of Chinese indentured labour will cease and determine, not only in respect of coolies already in South Africa, but also of any coolies for whose importation licences have already been issued but not exercised.

British Central Africa.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the future development of the British Central Africa Protectorate, the Government has under consideration the question of revising arrangements made under the general Act of the Conference of Berlin and the general Act of the Brussels Conference, whereby the inclusion of the said Protectorate in the South African Customs Union is practically prohibited.

*MR. CHURCHILL: The information at the disposal of the Secretary of State does not allow him to take it for granted that the provisions of the two general Acts to which my hon. friend refers are detrimental to the development of the Protectorate of British Central Africa. But even if that assumption could be made, the revision of the Acts would raise a large number of difficult and important questions, and could not be undertaken with reference to the interests of that Protectorate alone.

Chinde River Bank.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that though it will be many years before the whole British Concession at Chinde will disappear owing to erosion, it is the fact that the bonded portion of the Concession on the river bank has already almost gone, and that it is no longer possible to land goods for transmission to the British Central Africa Protectorate on the beach and foreshore of such Concession; and whether the Colonial Office can see its way to re-establish the bonded portion of the Concession upon the foreshore, the recent arrangement made by the Commissioner, in concert with the Portuguese authorities, having established the bonded portion too far from the foreshore to serve the purpose for which it is intended.

*MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has within the last few days received a despatch from the Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate which shows that the facts are accurately stated in the hon. Member's Question. The steps to be taken to secure additional frontage on the river are under consideration.

Protestant Mission in Malta.

*MR. ESSEX (Gloucestershire, Cirencester): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Protestant mission services in Malta were disallowed by the Governor of the Island at the demand of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Malta; and, if so, will he state why this refusal of religious liberty was made.

MR. SILCOCK (Somersetshire, Wells): I beg also to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Governor of Malta recently took steps to prevent the Rev. J. McNeill, a well-known Presbyterian minister, from continuing to hold religious services in the Theatre Royal, Valetta; whether he will furnish the House with an explanation of this action; and whether he can assure the House that the Government will take immediate steps to safeguard the right of free speech in this portion of the Empire.

*MR. CHURCHILL: The Governor of Malta apparently fearing that the continuance of the mission services referred to by the hon. Members for the Wells and Cirencester Divisions would lead to breaches of the peace, decided in the exercise of his discretion, as the authority responsible for the peace and good order of Malta, that the services should be stopped a day earlier than was originally intended, and the Secretary of State did not see any sufficient reason to criticise the Governor's action in the matter.

MR. SLOAN asked whether it was a fact that permission was given, and that it was not until opposition came from the Roman Catholic Archbishop that the permission was withdrawn.

*MR. CHURCHILL: I believe that statement is not altogether out of harmony with the facts.

MR. SLOAN asked whether that was a sufficient reason for the cessation of the right of this particular person.

*MR. CHURCHILL: I think it is a matter for the Governor to decide in his discretion, and the Secretary of State does not feel called upon to take any action.

Native Defeat in South Africa.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any information has been received at the Colonial Office from Pietermaritzburg, announcing another victory gained by the European forces and the slaughter of several hundred rebels.

The hon. Member in putting the Question complained that the words "so called" had been struck out at the Table from before the word "rebels."

MR. CHURCHILL: The Governor has reported that the fight lasted from daylight to dusk, and that the rebel losses are estimated at 575, including Mehlokazulu and Nondubula, one of Kula's principal headmen. Bambata escaped, though reported wounded. Among the Natal troops there were ten casualties, including one officer killed, and one mortally wounded. The rebels are said to have numbered twenty companies. Colonel Mackenzie has reported that he has now no fear of the rebellion spreading in Zululand.

The Indian Budget.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is in a position to state when the Indian Budget will be discussed.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I hope to state the date in a day or two. I will give full notice.

The Clive Fund.

MR. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Clive Fund is still in existence; if so, what are the qualifications required to claim upon the same.

MR. MORLEY: The Clive Fund is not in existence. Under the terms of Lord Clive's bequest the capital sum mentioned in the Trust Deed has reverted to his representatives. Pensions to widows of officers of the late East India Company's Forces are, however, still granted under the Clive Fund Rules, subject to such amendments as have from time to time been made by the Secretary of State in Council.

Macedonian Finance.

MR. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that it is proposed to apply the funds at present absorbed by the deficits in the Macedonian budget, and which will be set free by the proposed increase in the Customs duties, of which the greater part are levied on British trade, towards finding the kilometric guarantee for the Baghdad Railway; whether His Majesty's Government adhere to the declaration made by Lord Lansdowne that it shall be a condition of their consent to an increase in these duties that the expenditure of the money so obtained shall be controlled by a competent body controlling also the finances of Macedonia; and whether he will take steps to secure, firstly, the regulation of Turkish military expenditure in Macedonia, and, secondly, the recognition of the principle that funds derived from an increase in the Customs shall be devoted, after satisfaction of the needs of the Macedonian budget, to the promotion of foreign trade with Turkey in general and not to the setting free of revenues for any particular enterprise.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Sir EDWARD GREY): In reply to the first part of this Question, His Majesty's Government have no control over Turkish revenues, the allocation of which has not formed the subject of any agreement between the two Governments. 2. The increased revenue—less the 25 per cent. due to the bondholders—will, under the arrangement now under the consideration of the Porte, be devoted to meeting the deficit in the Macedonian Budget, which is already under the supervision of the Financial Commission. The establishment of this Financial Commission was accepted by Lord Lansdowne as the best control that it was practicable to obtain. 3. We have not stipulated for the regulation of Turkish military expenditure in Macedonia, but the Turkish Government have undertaken to make good from imperial funds all deficits in the Macedonian Budget, whether due to military or civil expenditure. 4. As at present estimated, the increased duty will be more than absorbed by Macedonia, and there will be no funds from this source for any other purpose; but, as will be seen when negotiations are concluded and Papers can be presented, His Majesty's Government have made some conditions which will be to the advantage of foreign trade.

Germany and the Persian Gulf.

*Mr. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any official information that the German Embassy in Constantinople has made overtures to the Porte, for the purchase or lease of an island or station in the Persian Gulf; whether he has been officially informed of any negotiations between the German Government and that of Persia for a similar purpose; and whether he is officially aware of any application by Germany for a concession for a railway from Baghdad to Khanakin, on the Persian frontier.

Mr. RUNCIMAN (for Sir Edward Grey): I have no official information which I can give to the hon. Member on the subject.

Congo Free State.

Mr. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the language used by the King of the Belgians with regard to the Congo Free State as essentially a personal undertaking, in which the Powers have no right to intervene, he will call the attention of King Leopold to Article 5 of the general Act of Berlin which denies the power to grant a monopoly or favour of any kind in matters of trade; and whether he will press for some further security beyond that already given, to ensure the carrying into effect of the decrees consequent on the Reform Committee's Report.

Mr. RUNCIMAN (for Sir Edward Grey): His Majesty's Minister at Brussels has recently explained to the Congo Government our views as to the right of the Powers parties to the Berlin Act to intervene in the affairs of the Congo State. With regard to the reform of the Administration, it would obviously be premature to make further representations to the Congo Government until we learn the effect of the new decrees.

Gold Reserve.

*Captain FABER: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the condition of Government securities on the Stock Exchange; and whether he proposes to take any steps to remedy this by curtailing the export of gold from this country, and by these means to increase our gold reserve.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Asquith, Fife, E.): The position of the gold reserves is a subject which is engaging my close attention, but I am not at present prepared to make any statement on the subject.

Tram Ticket Lotteries.

Mr. SCOTT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the fact that twenty-five servants of tramways companies have been dismissed from their employment for acts of fraud in connection with the system adopted by a number of newspapers of offering rewards of money for tram and bus tickets bearing certain numbers, and that in the same connection a child has lost its life; and, in view of these facts, will he take steps to put a stop, by legislation or otherwise, to this scheme of advertising.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.): My attention has not been called to the dismissal of employees of Tramway Companies, but, as I have already said, I regret the practice of the newspapers referred to. The question of the legality of the system is still under consideration, and I understand that application will be made to a magistrate who recently dismissed a charge to state a case for the opinion of the High Court.

Postal Guides.

Sir G. KEKEWICH (Exeter): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he can see his way to publish a postal handbook at a cheaper rate than the present sixpenny Post Office Guide, so as to bring postal information within the means of a larger portion of the population.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): As the hon. Member is no doubt aware, a handbook of postal information was formerly issued at the price of 1d. The demand for this book however was small and had been declining for some years; and when the Post Office Guide was issued in a revised form in July last my predecessor decided to suspend the publication of the handbook. Hardly a single complaint of the suspension has reached me, and I have no reason at present to think that there is any considerable public demand for a cheap manual of postal information.

Labourers' Dwellings in St. Pancras.

Sir W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the London and North Western Railway Company has, in pursuance of Section 50 of the London and North Western Railway Act of 1900 and Section 21 of the London and North Western Railway Act of 1903, submitted and obtained the approval of the Local Government Board to a scheme for providing new dwellings for the accommodation of persons of the labouring class, in lieu of the houses acquired under the said Acts in the metropolitan borough of St. Pancras; and, if not, whether any action is being taken by the company to fulfil its obligation.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. John Burns, Battersea): The company have not obtained the approval of the Local Government Board to a scheme for the purpose mentioned in the Question. I am informed that the company have not incurred any obligation under the sections of the local Acts referred to, inasmuch as they have not at present acquired under those Acts twenty houses occupied by persons of the labouring class, but I am assured that there is no intention on their part to do this without fulfilling the conditions attaching to such acquisition.

National Meat Supplies.

Mr. BAKER (Finsbury, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Goverment Board whether, in view of the disclosures in connection with some of the sources of supply of tinned and preserved meat consumed in this country, the importation of which has been largely increased by the exclusion of live cattle from Canada and elsewhere, he will take steps to institute an inquiry as to the conditions and sources of our meat supplies, and particularly as to whether the encouragement of the importation of of healthy live cattle is advisable in the interests of the meat consumers in this country.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I am causing some inquiry to be made as to the conditions and sources of the meat supplied to this country. Any question as to the importation of live cattle would be one for the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.): May I ask whether it is not the fact that there is a sufficient supply of healthy live cattle to be obtained from Ireland?

*Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a question for the Local Government Board.

Alien Pilots.

Sir GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will direct that no applications for pilotage certificates be considered by Trinity House pending the passage of the Merchant Shipping Amendment Bill now before Parliament.

The SECRETARY to the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Kearley, Devonport): The Trinity House have called my attention to this matter, and I am considering what steps are necessary to ensure that no undue advantage will be taken of the interval before the proposed clause can come into force.

Fire Insurance.

Mr. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the recent disclosures in connection with certain fire insurance offices; and whether he will consider the desirableness of introducing legislation compelling fire insurance companies to make a substantial deposit with the Board of Trade before commencing business, as is done in the case of life insurance companies.

Mr. KEARLEY: My attention has been called to the facts in connection with the liquidation of two small fire insurance offices, but I do not think that there is any necessity to introduce legislation compelling fire insurance companies to make a deposit with the Board of Trade before commencing business.

New St. Helen's Trams.

Mr. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the proposal of the New St. Helen's Tramway Company to sell their undertaking to a new company; and, if so, will he call for an inquiry before completion, seeing that it bars the St. Helen's Corporation to purchase at the same price.

MR. KEARLEY: So far as the Board of Trade are aware the tramways worked by the New St. Helen's and District Tramways Company, Ltd., are owned by the Corporation of St. Helens, who have leased them to the company. Under the terms of the lease the company cannot assign their rights without the written consent of the Corporation.

Scottish Officials' Salaries.

MR. WATT (Glasgow College): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland what are the duties and what is the salary attached to each of the following offices in Scotland, viz., Medical Superintendent of Statistics, Registrar-General's office, Inspector under the Inebriates' Act, and Assistant to the Medical Adviser to the Prison Commissioners; and will he say whether each of these offices is a pensionable office, and what time the holder of each devotes to its duties.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The information required by the hon. Member is as follows:—Superintendent of Statistics: Duties are to supervise the abstracting of vital statistics and to prepare the statistical reports issued by the Registrar-General. Pay is £450 rising by annual increments of £15 to £500. Assistant to the Medical Adviser to the Prison Commissioners: Duties are to assist the Prison Commissioners' Medical Adviser, whose duties are to express opinion on matters referred to him by the Commissioners and to medically inspect prisons. Pay £100. Inebriates Acts Inspector: Duties are to inspect institutions licensed or certified under the Inebriates Acts, to prepare an annual report, and to advise the Secretary for Scotland on matters referred by him. Pay £50. None of these offices are pensionable and I understand that together they occupy the officer's full time.

Major Ferguson.

MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland with reference to his statement that Major A. J. Ferguson, His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, never made any statement on the 16th May reflecting on the character of recruits to the police force from the Western Islands, and does not hold the opinions erroneously ascribed to him, what steps he will take to secure that this misunderstanding should be corrected, and Major Ferguson be given an opportunity of publicly contradicting it.

MR. SINCLAIR: In contradicting the misleading report on which my hon. friend based his former Question I spoke for Major Ferguson as well as for myself. Owing to my hon. friend's action the contradiction in this House will no doubt have obtained as much publicity as the original report.

MR. AINSWORTH was understood to say that Major Ferguson should have publicity given to the contradiction equal to that given to the original statement.

Scottish Churches' Dispute.

MR. ANNAN BRYCE (Inverness Burghs): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that the delay in the settlement of many of the outstanding questions between the Free and United Free Churches in Scotland, as regards the ownership of Church property, is causing inconvenience; and whether he will use his influence with the Commissioners to expedite the settlement by the issue of a further interim Report or otherwise.

MR. SINCLAIR: The settlement of questions referred to by the hon. Member has taken somewhat longer than was anticipated on account of the great mass of statistical and other information which has had to be collected by both Churches. The Commissioners had been anxious to expedite the investigation of all cases where congregational property was in dispute, but were informed that many of them were not ready for submission to the Assistant Commissioners. They are hopeful that this difficulty will now soon be overcome, and so far as they are concerned they have throughout been anxious to give every facility for the earliest possible determination of the questions submitted to them.

Sales of Westmeath Estates.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the

Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what causes the delay in completing the sales of the Ridley, the Murphy, and the Wilson Hospital estates, in the parish of Fore, Westmeath, agreements having been signed in 1904; will the Commissioners, before sanctioning these sales, ascertain the value of the tenants' occupation interest and improvements, in order to deduct this tenants' property from the gross amount, and advance only the value of what the respective owners are legally and equitably entitled to sell; how soon will the estates be inspected for this purpose; and how soon may the tenants expect the sales to be completed.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The Estates Commissioners inform me that the estates mentioned in the Question have not yet been reached. The agreements for purchase in the estate of E. Ridley were lodged on March 10th, 1905; in the estate of Wilson Hospital on July 5th, 1905; and in the estate of L. P. Murphy on April 6th, 1906. These estates will be dealt with in their order of priority and as soon as possible, but the Commissioners cannot state with any accuracy when the estates will be inspected or the sales completed. The Instructions to Inspectors which have been laid on the Table and Form E. therein contained show what the practice of the Commissioners is in estimating price and security.

Land Act Administration—Tenants' Interests.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in view of the importance and urgency of the question, whether, under the Land Act of 1903, Irish landlords are to be paid with public money for the tenants' occupation, interest, and improvements, and those tenants are to be made liable for the repayment of a price for their own property, and of the fact that there has already been a hearing by the Commissioner, will a preliminary second hearing on a fairly chosen test case be taken at such an early date as will allow of the whole matter being heard and decided by the Court of Appeal before the long vacation; and will a sufficient sum be retained from price and bonus in each case of sale to await the result.

MR BRYCE: In regard to the first part of the Question, I beg to refer to the reply which I gave to the hon. and learned Member's Question of May 23rd,[†] in reference to the case of King Harman and Hayes. The Commissioners will bring the matter forward as soon as they can, but cannot fix a date. The reply to the concluding inquiry of the Question is in the negative.

Murphy Estate, Knocknagree, County Cork.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in reference to the Murphy estate, Scrahan, Knocknagree, county Cork, whether any offer has been made to the Estates Commissioners to sell it under the Land Purchase Act of 1903; are they aware that two tenants, P. Guiney and Mrs. O'Connor were evicted in 1880 for the non-payment of one-half year's rent each and the hanging gale, and, as a consequence, a police protection hut was established at Scrahan which has involved an expenditure of £3,000 of public money since its establishment; and whether, in view of these facts and of the public feeling in the locality, the Commissioners will refuse to sanction the sale of the property unless an undertaking is given to reinstate these evicted tenants.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no originating application or request in respect of the sale of the estate in question has yet been lodged with them. They have, however, received applications for reinstatement from both of the evicted tenants named, and have referred these applications to one of their inspectors for inquiry and report. It is the fact that since the year 1881 a protection post has been in existence at Scrahan for the protection of the new tenant of the evicted farms, at an expense from public funds of upwards of £3,000. In regard to the concluding inquiry of the Question, the Commissioners are unable to state what action they may take until proceedings for the sale of the estate have come before them.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 1291.

St. Johnston (East Donegal) Evicted Tenant.

MR. MCVEIGH (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Estates Commissioners has been called to the eviction of William Lapsley, of St. Johnston, East Donegal, who was evicted from his farm many years ago from the Duke of Abercorn's estate, on the ground that his farm was wanted for improvement purposes; and whether, seeing that no improvements have since been made, but the farm has been let from time to time for grazing to different men, and that the present occupant has been only four years in possession, the Commissioners, now that the estate is about to be sold, will instruct their inspector to inquire into Lapsley's case, and, if it was found that he was vindictively evicted, whether they will decline to sanction the purchase until he is reinstated in his farm or compensated for the loss of it.

*MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that their attention has not been called to the eviction of William Lapsley, and they have no knowledge of the facts alleged in the Question. The Commissioners have received no application for reinstatement from Lapsley, but they will duly consider any such application which may be lodged with them.

Labourers' Cottages.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state approximately the number of labourers' cottages in each province of Ireland on which loans will be outstanding on March 31st, 1907.

I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state approximately the number of labourers' cottages in the county of Armagh on which loans will be outstanding on March 31st next.

*MR. BRYCE: A Return which was presented to this House on the 7th inst., on the Motion of the hon. Member for North Kerry,† gives full particulars, both by counties and provinces, of the numbers of labourers' cottages, built, or in course of construction upon which loans were outstanding on March 31st, 1906. I take it that this will be sufficient for the hon. Member's purpose, without preparing an approximate Return for a year ahead, assuming that this could be done with any approach to accuracy.

Mr. Jeremiah Hurley, J.P.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the fact that Mr. Jeremiah Hurley, who was sworn in as a magistrate at Rosscarbery, county Cork, on May 9th last, is identical with the Jeremiah Hurley who, on October 8th, 1891, was convicted of an assault on a man in a Glandore public-house and sentenced to seven days' imprisonment with hard labour, was known to the Lord-Lieutenant when the addition of his name to the commission of the peace was sanctioned.

*MR. BRYCE: The Lord Chancellor has informed me that there was no information in his Department to the effect stated in the Question, and, having regard to the fact that the incident is alleged to have occurred so far back as fifteen years ago, he does not think it necessary to inquire into the matter.

Coalisland Disturbance.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the 3rd instant, at Coalisland, a number of revolver shots were fired from an excursion train filled with members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, at persons standing on the railway embankment; and what steps he proposes to take to put a stop to such incidents.

*MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the police authorities that on the occasion in question five shots were fired from the excursion train in the direction of persons in a field about thirty yards from the railway line. It does not appear whether the persons were actually fired at. No one was injured. A constable who was on duty on the line saw the shots fired from the train, but could not identify the offender. A man named Quinn was subsequently arrested and prosecuted by the police upon information received, but the case was dismissed by the magistrates. The excursion train was accompanied by a force of eight policemen for the purpose of preserving the peace. Every possible precaution is taken to prevent firing from trains on such occasions and to bring offenders to justice. This very objectionable practice does not appear to be confined to one party in the North of Ireland.

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† See Col. 520.

MR. LONSDALE: I think the last few words of that Answer were superfluous.

The Irish Language.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of Intermediate Education have declined to modify their rules, so as to provide that the Irish language should have equal recognition with French and German; and what steps he proposes to take in these circumstances.

MR. BRYCE: Communications in reference to this matter are still passing between the Irish Government and the Commissioners of Intermediate Education, and I am not in a position to make any statement on the subject.

Dublin Metropolitan Police.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the rules regulating the standard of efficiency of the members for the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force is the absence of crime or complaint upon the part of the public residing in the area or the number of cases the men succeed in making.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that the efficiency of members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police force is judged by the success of their efforts in the prevention of crime and in the detection and arrest of offenders.

Dublin Police Superintendents.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the superintendents of the Dublin Metropolitan Police are compelled to make a monthly Return to the Chief Commissioner of the number of cases brought by the patrol and section sergeants under their control; whether the Return contains a column setting forth the number of cases made by the same men during the corresponding month of the preceding year; and, if so, will he state what is the object of this comparison.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that the facts are substantially as stated in the first two branches of this Question. The Return shows the number of licensed premises visited, and the number of irregularities observed and of prosecutions pending. The comparison effected with the corresponding period of the previous year relates to cases made in the same division, and not necessarily by the same men. The return is considered necessary in order that the performance of this important duty may come periodically under review. The practice of furnishing the return is of many years standing.

Trinity College Commission.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University): On behalf of the hon. Member for Dublin University, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, having regard to the interest of the Church of Ireland in the Divinity School of Trinity College, Dublin, and the number of graduates and students who belong to that church, he will consider the advisability and fairness of adding a member of that church to the Commission appointed to inquire into Trinity College, Dublin.

MR. BRYCE: It would be undesirable to make any addition to the Commission appointed to inquire into Trinity College, Dublin, as it is now sufficiently large, and the members, four of whom are (I believe) Episcopalian Protestant, are fully competent to deal with the interests mentioned in the Question. I may add that the hon. Member for the University of Cambridge, who is a member of the Commission, has special qualifications for enabling him duly to represent to his colleagues those interests.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) asked whether the terms of reference to the Commission would include an inquiry into the Divinity School.

MR. BRYCE: The hon. Member can ascertain that as well as I can by reading the terms of reference which have been published.

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, despite the repeated declarations of Ministers, he proposes to include The Peace Preservation (Ireland) Act, 1881, or any other temporary Irish Coercion Acts, in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill this session.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I am not able at this period of the session to give a definite Answer to the hon. Member.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked what would be the business of the House on Friday, and what would be the business on Monday and subsequent days. There were rumours of such a character regarding the business on Monday as made it desirable that the Prime Minister should give the House as soon as possible any information in his power.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The first order on Friday will be the Public Trustee Bill, which has come down from the House of Lords. The next order will be the Bills of Exchange Act Amendment Bill, and then we will proceed with the Bills on the Paper to-day so far as they have not been overtaken. On Monday I propose to move, or my right hon. friend will move for me, a Motion determining the future course of progress on the Education Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The intimation just made is one of importance. Can the right hon. Gentleman tell us how soon the proposals which we are to discuss on Monday will be on the Paper? The sooner they can be in the hands of hon. Members the better.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I hope to-morrow; that is to say, they will be handed in to-morrow; they will not be on the Paper to-morrow.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 251.]

NEW BILL.

TEACHERS OF MUSIC (REGISTRATION) BILL.

"To provide for the Registration of Teachers of Music," presented by Mr. George White; supported by Mr. Wyndham, Sir John Brunner, Sir Henry Craik, and Mr. Neild; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, June 27th, and to be printed. [Bill 252.]

LABOURERS (IRELAND) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said that the interval which had elapsed since the introduction of the Bill and an examination of its clauses enabled him to say that he was confirmed in the view which he had expressed on the First Reading, viz.: that, speaking broadly, the measure was a fair and satisfactory one. There had naturally been criticisms upon details, but on the whole he believed the general opinion in Ireland was, in the words he had used on the First Reading, that it was a comprehensive and satisfactory attempt to settle the question. He did not intend to go into details on the present occasion, but when the measure came before the Committee it would be necessary to examine with some care many of the proposals, and he was quite sure the Government would go into Committee upon these matters of detail with a perfectly open mind prepared to accept the decision of the Committee upon subsidiary matters. A careful examination of the Bill would doubtless lead to amendments of certain portions of it and would tend to improve the machinery of the measure. On the Second Reading, however, he would confine himself, as he had said, to the broad general principles which were embodied in the Bill. The conditions of the Irish agricultural labourer had been in the past, and he was sorry to say, still were, to a considerable extent, a disgrace to the Government of Ireland and a reproach to civilisation and humanity. Irish labourers had lived, and still were, to a certain extent, living, under conditions which were absolutely fatal to health and habits of cleanliness. They lived under conditions which in almost any other country in the world would prove fatal to religion and morality. But the Irish agricultural labourers were a remarkable race of men. As a class they were highly intelligent, and they were keen and brave politicians; they had, too, proved themselves most patriotic and self-sacrificing. They had, notwithstanding the conditions under which they had been living, amongst all their poverty, misery, and squalor, preserved a deep religious feeling and the highest possible standard of morality. There was no class in the world where the moral standard was so high as among these men. From a national point of view, the Irish agricultural labourer was the very best of the population in Ireland. During the past twenty-five years their condition had been described in remarkable language by travellers and statesmen, yet less than twenty-five years ago no effort was made by Parliament to ameliorate their lot or change the conditions of misery and squalor under which they lived. One of the first results of the great movement commenced by the late Mr. Parnell was the passage through this House in 1883 of a measure dealing with the agricultural labourers of Ireland. It was provided under the measure that money should be lent to local authorities in Ireland to enable them to acquire land and build cottages for the agricultural labourer. Originally the land was to be acquired in quarter acre plots, then that was enlarged to half acre plots, and at the present time it was an acre. Notwithstanding all these amendments made rapidly in the Acts, the Acts had proved a failure. They had been in operation for twenty-three years, and according to the figures given by the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary during the First Reading debate on the Bill there had been only 17,000 or 18,000 cottages built throughout the whole of Ireland. What was the reason of the failure of these Acts? The reason was perfectly simple and patent to everyone. The procedure under the Acts had been so blocked, the expense attendant upon that procedure and the delay necessitated by the procedure so heavy, and the burden thrown upon the rates so excessive, that for his part he wondered, not that there should have been so few cottages erected, but that there should have been so many. Money had been lent in Ireland during the last twenty-five years for many purposes at a comparatively cheap rate. In 1893 money was given for the purposes of landlords and tenants in Ireland at 3¼ per cent. including interest and sinking fund. They had, however, demanded in vain cheap rates for the purposes of Labourers Acts from successive Governments. The last Government made promises to them, but those promises had not come to anything. Things, however, were worse than that. When they came to the last Government upon the question, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, so far from relieving the burden upon the rates in connection with the building of labourers' cottages, actually increased it. He increased the rate of interest by some 12s. 3d. per cent. upon the loans. And so, whilst the rate of interest for such loans stood in the past at 4½ per cent. they were now at 5 per cent. Thus the precise figures of interest were £4 17s. 6d. per cent. per cottage, and this, coupled with the blocked machinery and long delay, had brought the working of the present Act to a standstill. The heavy rate of interest, coupled with the expense and delay of the machinery, meant that for every cottage built in Ireland under the existing system local authorities, after deducting rent, became liable to an annual payment of £6 per cottage including sinking fund. The system was fatal to the rapid, smooth, and satisfactory working of the Acts, and thus the intentions of successive Parliaments to deal satisfactorily with the question had been completely thwarted. The principal reform they impressed upon the Government, therefore, before they could obtain a satisfactory Labourers' Bill, was cheap money for land purchase and simple and expeditious procedure. The present Bill provided that reform. The whole money required for the purchase of land and the building of cottages was to be limited to £4,500,000. This sum was to be provided in the future on land purchase terms, that was 3½ per cent. including interest and sinking fund.

He wished to draw the attention of the Chief Secretary to the fact that these terms were not retrospective. The whole amount of outstanding loans in connection with the Labourers Acts was not much over £3,000,000 and certainly under £3,500,000, and some small ameliorations of the terms upon which those loans stood would be of great benefit to the labourers of Ireland. It would relieve the rates and enable the more expeditious building of cottages, while at the same time it would not impose a serious burden upon the Treasury. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give consideration to this point, otherwise the unfortunate result would be that those portions of the country which had used every effort and had tried most patriotically to deal with this question would be mulcted, whilst those portions of the country who for some reason or another had refused to make any effort in the matter would reap the whole benefit. The Government in their Bill went on the basis that £4,500,000 would be a sufficient amount for the settlement of the question; at all events, it would suffice for the building of 25,000 cottages. He contended when the Bill was introduced, and he was still of the same opinion, that that sum was not sufficient to settle the matter. He admitted that it would be sufficient to keep the local authorities in Ireland busy for some years to come, and he would say further that the estimate of the Under-Secretary of £170 per cottage was an excessive estimate; the £4,500,000 would build more than 25,000 cottages. This was of great importance, because the more cottages they built the less would be the annual burden upon the rates. In addition to giving them cheap money the Bill also provided for a grant of £50,000 a year in relief of the rates, and to assist the working of the Act. The Chief Secretary made a most remarkable calculation when he introduced the Bill, and he (Mr. Redmond) preferred to abide by that calculation, because it was made with official knowledge and assistance. His calculation was, that whereas the building of 17,500 cottages in the past had left an annual liability upon the rates of the country to the extent of £66,000, under the new system the building of 25,000 cottages would levy upon the rates a burden of only £23,000. Further than that, the law costs, under the Bill, would undoubtedly be greatly reduced together with the whole working expenses of the labourers' scheme. Indeed, it would be no exaggeration to say that the expenses of the scheme would be reduced by one-half. He believed the right hon. Gentleman, or the Attorney-General, had said that in their opinion it would be reduced by more than one-half, probably two-thirds. However that might be, it was quite clear there would be a reduction. He would pause one moment here before going further into details to say that on the broad underlying principles of the Bill they had undoubtedly an enormous advance upon anything which had ever before been proposed in connection with the subject. He congratulated the right hon. Gentleman in having approached the matter in so courageous and bold a manner. They seemed now to be approaching the time when the question would be solved rapidly without any undue burden being thrown upon the ratepayers of the country. By way of criticism, however, he wished to say a few words. He had mentioned a grant of £50,000. £28,000 of that money was to be given by the Treasury, and the remainder—£22,000—was to come from interest upon certain Irish funds which had really been allocated for the purposes of education. He knew of no possible Irish object to which Irish funds could be more properly devoted than a settlement of the labourers' question. Therefore, it was difficult for him to oppose it, but at the same time he felt bound to make a protest against such allocation. Knowing, as the Chief Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer did, the injustice under which Ireland was suffering owing to her financial arrangements with England, he contended that they should have allowed the whole of the £50,000 to be paid out of the Treasury. He thought it was a monstrous hardship that the fund should be drawn upon for the aid of these objects simply for the purpose of saving the Treasury at the expense of Irish education. There was another fund drawn upon by the Bill, viz., the Irish Petty Sessions Fund. £150,000, as a capital sum, was taken from that fund, and here he had a serious complaint to make—he did not make it against the Chief Secretary and still less against the Chancellor of the Exchequer, because he did not believe either of them were aware of the facts he was going to state. There had been a deception in the matter, which had been hidden from them, and which they had discovered for themselves. There had been what he might call a trick, whereby the local authorities were going to be deprived of £5,000 or £6,000 a year. It did not appear on the face of it, and it was not until after minute investigation that they discovered the trick. He laid the responsibility for that upon the Treasury, but he exempted the Chancellor of the Exchequer who he did not believe had ever heard of it. He would explain the facts. The Treasury were giving a free grant of £28,000 a year, and then they said they must make up the balance by the interest upon a capital sum of money—£150,000—taken from the Petty Sessions Clerks' Fund. The annual interest on the £150,000 amounted to a sum of between £5,000 and £6,000. That sum now formed part of the Fines Fund from which the petty sessions clerks were paid. For the purpose of keeping that fund at a uniform figure from year to year the Lord - Lieutenant was empowered to supplement it every year by such a sum from the Dog Licence Fund as he thought fit, the balance of which latter fund went to the local authority. Already £26,000 on an average was taken from the Dog Licence Fund to supplement the Fines Fund, and that sum must now be increased by the amount of the interest on the £150,000, if the £150,000 was used for the Labourers' Acts. That meant, therefore, that a yearly sum of between £5,000 and £6,000 was withdrawn from the local authorities for the purpose of the Labourers Acts. The matter was a little complicated, but he hoped he had made it clear. That, he declared, was a trick. It really meant that so far as the local authorities were concerned they were getting a grant of £28,000, but they were losing £5,000 or £6,000 a year interest upon the £150,000. If that was new to the Chief Secretary and to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he was certain that it was, he fancied there would be no difficulty in putting the matter right, and it would be nothing less than a fraud to offer them a free grant represented as £28,000 when at the same time £5,000 or £6,000 was taken away. That was a course of conduct which he was sure the Government would never have been guilty of, and it was an eloquent instance of the way in which the permanent officials of the Treasury seized every opportunity to endeavour to perpetrate a swindle upon Ireland. It was provided by the Bill that it should not come into force until April, 1907. Why was that? It was a very serious matter. There were at the present time a number of schemes being worked out. What was to happen to them? Why should they not get the benefit of the new terms? The result of putting April, 1907, into the Bill would be that all schemes at present being worked out in Ireland would be at once hung up, and nothing whatever would be done for the next year in connection with the Labourers Acts. The moment the Bill was passed it ought to come into operation, so that all the schemes at present on foot should get the benefit of the new terms. There were two other matters of detail to which he must refer for a moment. The question of obtaining a title had been one of the most serious obstacles to the rapid working of the Labourers' Acts in Ireland. When a local district council purchased half an acre of land they had to go just as minutely into the question of title as if they were buying a million acres, and the proving of title became a most costly proceeding. This Bill provided that where the amount of the purchase was not more that £60 the district councils might pay the sum to the vendor on the simple proof that he has been receiving the profits of the land for six years. That was a most valuable provision if it stood unqualified, because it would at once do away with the enormous delay and the enormous cost of the present system of proving title. Unfortunately, however, the provision did not stand without qualification, because it went on to say that for six years anybody claiming to be the real possessor of the title could take proceedings against the district council for the recovery of the amount. That took away all the value of the previous provision. He did not suggest that a safeguard was not necessary, but he did say that a safeguard so sweeping in character as this was not needed. This was a matter of enormous importance, and he therefore hoped the Chief Secretary would take a note of it when he came to deal with the Bill in Committee. Another detail was the question of appeal to the Local Government Board. That was a very debateable matter. The old system of appeal to the Privy Council was monstrous, but that had been abolished, and the present procedure was short and simple. It was proposed in the Bill that on the requisition of three labourers or upon no requisition at all the district council might initiate a scheme for the building of labourers' cottages. It went further than that, because it provided that if a local district council did not initiate a scheme where it ought to do so, the Local Government Board could step in and do the work at the local district council's expense. When a scheme was initiated the Local Government Board inspector came down and held an inquiry, and, having held the inquiry, made an order. If there was no opposition that order was final, but if there was opposition a right of appeal was given. He did not say there should not be a right of appeal. The question was where the right of appeal should be. It used to be to the Privy Council. The right hon. Member for Dover proposed in his Bill that it should be to a Judge of Assize, and they objected to that. Another alternative suggested was a County Court Judge. Personally, he objected to that also. Then the Government proposed an appeal to the Local Government Board from their own inspector, and the provision in the Bill was that the Board, having considered the evidence already given by its inspectors and any further evidence it might consider necessary, should then make a final order. He did not like any of these suggestions. The suggestion he proposed was that the appeal should be to a judicial sub-commissioner of the Land Commission specially appointed for that purpose. That was of course a debateable matter, and he did not know the view of all his colleagues on the subject, but he thought they all agreed that some sort of appeal was necessary, and he mentioned the matter in order to show the right hon. Gentleman that that was one of the points on which he must preserve an open mind and listen to all that was said by representatives of the Nationalist Party and representatives from Ulster. If the right hon. Gentleman did that they would easily come to a satisfactory settlement on the point. The Bill undoubtedly opened up the possibility of the labourers of Ireland rising in the social scale from the position of labourer to that of farmer. The whole future of Ireland lay in the breaking up of the great grass ranches. The English traveller who visited the country for the first time went there having heard a great deal about congested districts. Leaving Dublin, he travelled across the island through uninhabited plains and the most magnificent grass lands to be found in any part of the world, and it was only here and there that he came across patches of congestion. Having travelled for some hours across these magnificent plains, he suddenly came on a bog the cultivation of which would not give sustenance to anyone, and there he found huddled together thousands of people who had been driven off those rich plains which had been turned into grazing lands. There could never be a settlement of the Irish land question or any other Irish question until that system was destroyed, and those grass lands were broken up into moderate sized holdings. Under the Act of 1903 the granting of new holdings with these untenanted lands was restricted to three classes—tenants, sons of tenants, and evicted tenants. The present Bill proposed to include in that category farm labourers. There was no class in Ireland from which a better set of men could be obtained to farm these small holdings than the labourers, and for his part he would not regard any settlement of the labourers' question as satisfactory which shut them out from the possibility of obtaining a foothold on these untenanted lands. He hoped that by this Bill labourers would be able by their own industry and thrift to raise themselves from labourers to farmers. The Bill would undoubtedly pass its Second Reading without a division, because he did not think that the representatives from Ulster were in disagreement with the Nationalist Party as to the main principle of the measure. In Committee all Parties would be represented, and they would have one common object—to fashion this Bill into a really effective measure. If that was so, all the Chief Secretary had to do was to keep his ears open for the suggestions that would come to him from those who represented Irish opinion in this matter, and who had an intimate knowledge of the question, and to accept the proposals that would be made to him on the various details of the measure. He (Mr. Redmond) could only say, speaking for the Nationalist Party, that they would certainly not regret any time given to the Government for the full consideration and perfecting of their larger schemes for dealing with the whole question of the better government of the country if the interval was utilised by the passing into law of this measure, which would give some degree of justice to one of the worst used and most deserving classes in Ireland.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) said he must congratulate the Chief Secretary on bringing in a Bill dealing with a question of deep interest to the Irish people in all parts, and for the first time uniting Members below the gangway and Members above the gangway. When he entered the House of Commons forty years ago, and for many years afterwards, he felt that the class of persons most deserving the attention of Parliament were the tenant farmers, and he backed that opinion up by supporting each successive Land Bill brought in by various Governments. There was, however, another class which deeply touched his sympathy, and that was the labouring class in Ireland, and when he read the Bill on his return from France it gave him great satisfaction to see that its leading characteristics were to do away with those difficulties which had prevented the labourers obtaining the relief and assistance which he believed the House of Commons meant them to obtain. So all through the Bill, whenever it dealt with the removal of these obstacles, it would receive his support, and, he believed, the support of his colleagues. Of course there were details of the Bill on which there might be differences of opinion. but he had no doubt that when the Bill left the House there would be no alteration of any kind made which would render it more difficult for the labourers of Ireland to obtain the relief they deserved. He had no intention to enter into the financial matters so ably dealt with by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, which he confessed he did not understand. When they came to chop logic with the Treasury he never knew a man who understood the result ultimately achieved. With regard to the general principle of the Bill, he approved the proposal that the appeal should be to the Local Government Board, because he thought such an appeal would be the least expensive, and would have a considerable effect in undermining the profits which that worthy class, the Irish lawyers, hoped to obtain from any Bill passed by the House of Commons. There were points in the Bill to which he took some exception; but these might, he thought, be dealt with in Committee. One thing he wished to congratulate the framers of the Bill upon was an expression in the ninth clause, where provision was made as to insanitary dwellings. He much approved of the provision that the improvement scheme which the Local Government Board might require a district council to make must be adequate. Up to now the erection of two or three labourers' cottages had been supposed to suffice, but a bogus representation of that kind could not be upheld if there was an inquiry as to whether there was adequate accommodation. He feared that the eighteenth clause would militate very much against the principle of the Bill, which was to facilitate the building of labourers' cottages. In that clause it was proposed that the residue of the Exchequer contribution was to be divided between the rural districts in Ireland as nearly as might be in proportion to the number of cottages provided before the commencement of the Act. In the county he represented he had found great fault with the inaction of the authorities. He would only say that in going round his own constituency he had been sometimes struck with horror at the gloomy hovels in which labourers were lodged, and though he was bound to say that recently there had been a change, that many more labourers' cottages had been erected, yet up to the present nothing like enough had been done to house the labourers. Some of the houses in which labourers dwelt were unfit for stabling cattle. Yet the difficulties in the way were so great that those who dwelt in these hovels were unable to set in operation any method by which redress could be secured. He felt that the clause was not an encouragement to such a county to build houses, but would have exactly the opposite effect. He would throw out as a suggestion which might be considered in Committee, that if local authorities failed to carry out their duty in building labourers' cottages, the money to their credit which it was now practically proposed to take away should be applied by the Local Government Board to carry out the schemes which the local authorities were not willing to undertake. He could only say for himself and his colleagues that their great object in supporting the Bill was to see that it should be effective in carrying out its object, and make the Irish labourer an independent man living in a good house—for how could a man be independent who after his hard day's work lived in a hovel? He congratulated the Government on bringing in the Bill at that period of the session, and again he congratulated them on bringing in a Bill which had on the whole the united support of the Members for Ireland, in whatever part of the House they sat.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said he rose principally for the purpose of eliciting some information from the Chief Secretary as to the proposals of the Bill. He approved most heartily of all that had been said by the hon. and learned Gontlemen for Waterford with regard to the Bill as a whole. The Bill, however, was rather a complicated measure. There were a number of Labourers Acts, and this Bill had to be read in connection with them. It was not until they compared it with those Acts that they could arrive at anything like the meaning of its clauses. First of all, as regarded the expense of the proceedings under the Labourers Acts, everyone knew that that had been the great drawback in the past. Lawyers and architects between them had ruined the proceedings under those Acts; but he was not very hopeful that they were now going to get rid of either the one or the other. The lawyer would endeavour to assert himself in these proceedings unless he was more effectually barred than he seemed to be. The question of proving title was the happy hunting-ground of the Irish lawyers in connection with all these questions. He saw a bill delivered by an Irish attorney to a rural district council in the north of Ireland for proceedings in connection with these Acts which totted up to the respectable sum of £1,152.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: Was he paid?

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he was. Really it was no joke to the ratepapers or to the labourers, because a rural district council dealt with in such a manner was not likely to be favourable to the working of this Bill. Then there was the question of proving title. There, of course, the great difficulty arose. He watched the Attorney-General for Ireland as the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Waterford was catechising him, and he noticed that he did not agree with the position taken up by the hon. and learned Member. As he (Mr. Russell) read the Bill, it was practically the procedure of the Land Act of 1903 adapted to these Acts. Under the Land Act the landlord who desired to sell had to lodge an abstract of title. That was *prima facie* proof to the Estates Commissioners, but they did not sell the estate upon that abstract of title. Nearly a score of examiners of title had been appointed since the Land Act was passed to go into the question of whether this abstract of title was correct, and the court was blocked at this moment in this very process. The lawyer came in head and shoulders through the Land Act of 1903 in the matter of proof of title, and if Parliament was going to do the same thing here the lawyers would come in here also. Let them not be under any delusion. The difficulty of title would remain. The rural district council could not compulsorily take land from a man without knowing what they were doing. He agreed with the hon. and learned Member for Waterford so far as this was concerned that no rural district council was going to buy land with the chance of being assailed by a man claiming to be the owner after the whole thing had been settled. That sort of thing could not be done. He must say that when the Bill got into Committee the whole question of expenditure upon proof of title would have to be carefully watched and dealt with. He quite agreed that title must be proved; the only thing was the expense of proving it. Then there was the question of appeal. He was disposed to agree with the right hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh in this matter. He had a communication only that morning from a very experienced official in the East of Ireland on this very question. Everybody agreed that an appeal to the Privy Council was a monstrous thing. The

Judge of Assize was as bad. He should be satisfied himself with a county court judge, but that also meant law and lawyers. He thought that upon the whole the Local Government Board was as cheap and as effective a Court of Appeal in a case like this as could be had. He did not see how one of the legal Commissioners under the Land Act would be in any better position to deal with the question than the Local Government Board, and it was not an unusual thing for them to sit in appeal on their own inspectors. On the whole, the provision in the Bill that the Local Government Board should be practically a Court of Appeal was as good a provision as could be found. There was a matter he wanted some information upon, namely, whether Clause 18 was intended to be retrospective, because on that a good deal would hang. Those counties where the Exchequer grants had accumulated because they would not enforce the Act to provide labourers' cottages, did not deserve much consideration. They were defaulters, and were not entitled to the consideration of those counties which had taxed themselves and strained their resources in order to provide cottages. There was another question which affected the north of Ireland in a way in which he did not think it affected the south. There was one reason why these Acts had not been put into operation in the north, which did not apply to the same extent in the south. They all knew that tillage farming had continued in the north of Ireland long after it went out of fashion in the south. Tillage farmers in the north had been compelled by the necessities of the case to provide cottages to a certain extent for labouring men. And that was the case at the present time. In his own constituency the Clogher Rural District Council had been in default upon this question. He thought they had been wholly wrong. He had endeavoured to pull them up, but he would say for them that there was something in their case. They appointed a sub-committee the other day to go into the whole question of labourers' cottages. There were two farmers and two landlords on that sub-committee, and they visited the whole of the area. Their report was that a certain number of cottages ought to be built, but they maintained that there were a large number of cottages in the area that might be enlarged and put into proper order, and that the money of the ratepayers would be largely saved if they were entitled under this Bill to acquire these cottages, repair them, and make them proper cottages. The Bill did, in one of the earlier clauses, speak of the council acquiring cottages. What he wanted to find out was what was to be done in a case like that of the Clogher Rural District Council that had admitted the lack of cottages to a certain extent, and had been fighting the Local Government Board upon this very point. They thought that if a council were empowered to acquire cottages in existence now, they could be made habitable, and so the ratepayers' money could be made to go further. He trusted that the Chief Secretary would give the House a little light upon that matter. He would say frankly that he thought a good deal had been gained by waiting. They had escaped, he thought, a great deal. If they had accepted the Bill before the Grand Committee last session, they would have been in a very different position than they now were. The labourers had gained everything by waiting. The Land Act of 1903 had its drawbacks which were not inconsiderable. They would have to be put right. But the Land Act made it certain that in the near future the Irish farmer would be the owner of his own farm. He thought that this Labourers Bill did for the labourers, and did it better for them, what the Land Act of 1903 was intended to do, and would ultimately do, for the farmers. He therefore rejoiced that they had waited, and he thanked the Chief Secretary for what he had done. Of course, they would have to watch the Treasury all through the Bill as they had to do on every Irish question. What he had to say was that he thought this was a right good Bill in the main, and that he believed that Irish Members aided by the Government would be able to make it in Committee what it really ought to be.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.) said that if he read Clause 18 aright the right hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh was mistaken in his interpretation of it. The complaint made by those counties which had put the Labourers Acts into operation in the past was that they would get no relief whatever. If a county had built a sufficient number of labourers' cottages to supply the wants in the county they would continue, so far as this Bill was concerned, to be without any relief whatever, whereas the counties in the north of Ireland which had neglected to put the Labourers' Acts into operation could now for a very trifling expenditure of the rates meet all the wants of the labourers in the matter of housing. Instead of having ground for complaint the Ulster Unionist Members ought to congratulate themselves upon the financial terms of the Bill. The counties which had some reason to complain were those almost entirely situated in Leinster and Munster, which had put the Acts into operation in the past. A Return which could be seen in the Library showed that up to March 31st last over 20,600 cottages had been erected in Ireland, 1,600 of them were in Ulster, and 300 in Connaught, so that over 18,000 had been erected in Munster and Leinster. These cottages had been erected at a cost of £3,415,000, and, so far as he could estimate, the average interest on the loans was close upon 4½ per cent. What they might claim here was that so far as possible the system of finance adopted in the Bill in respect of loans should be applied to the loans now outstanding. He was perfectly certain that this could be done without any inconvenience or loss to the Treasury. It was a mere question of book-keeping. It was a mere matter of treating the outstanding loans as having been paid off and opening them up as new loans under the new system of a prolonged period and a reduced rate per annum. The average rate at present was something approaching 4½ per cent., whilst under the new system the rate would be 3¼ per cent. By making the system retrospective it would not be necessary to go to the public to raise additional money, it having been already raised. Supposing that 1 per cent. could be saved to the ratepayers without any loss whatever to the public Exchequer, the saving to the rates would amount to over £34,000 per annum. Many of the rural districts were now heavily burdened with rates for this matter alone—some of them over 6d. in the £1—and this relief would enable the district councils to build additional cottages and really to come to a settlement of the question in their own districts. In this matter the interests of the labourers and the interests of the ratepayers were one and the same thing. By relieving the rates they would enable the ratepayers to build cottages. This was a Bill to make it easy for the ratepayers to provide cottages for the labourers. He would impress upon the Chief Secretary the absolute necessity of urging upon the Treasury the adoption of a new system of finance. It was of vital importance to make the Bill operative in those parts of the country which had shown most zeal in the past in putting the Acts into operation. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for North Armagh had referred to Connaught as being in pretty much the same position in regard to the working of the Acts as Ulster. They were not situated there at all in the same way as in Ulster. They were exactly similarly situated in the sense that the Acts were not operative in either Ulster or Connaught until quite lately when some cottages were built in Ulster. They had been inoperative in Ulster because of the neglect or the default of the district councils and the boards of guardians. It was quite a different matter in Connaught; they had been inoperative in Connaught because the labourers question presented quite a different aspect there from that which it presented in the other provinces. In Connaught with few exceptions the labourers were really small farmers—the people for whose relief the Congested Districts Board had been brought into existence. But even where there was a distinct labouring class it was not easy to compel the small farmers in the congested districts to undergo the burden of the heavy rate which had been necessary in past financial schemes under the Labourers Acts to provide houses for the labourers, and therefore even in Connaught this system of finance would enable a certain number of cottages to be erected in future. For that reason in the main the Nationalist Members desired to express their satisfaction with the Bill. In regard to procedure he thought it would be possible to shorten it even more than was now proposed. The Bill undoubtedly would go a long way to shorten and cheapen procedure, but it was possible to go further. There were, for instance, two proceedings at present—an inquiry held in a rural district as to the suitability and necessity of a scheme when promoted, and later on an arbitration inquiry as to the value of the land. He understood that those intimately acquainted with the working of the Acts saw no reason why these two inquiries should not be held together. There was no reason why the inspector who conducted the first inquiry should not also be the person to ascertain and declare the value of the small plot of land upon which it was proposed afterwards to erect a labourer's cottage. In that way one costly step in the promotion of a scheme would be saved, and so also in regard to other matters which would be brought forward when the Bill was in Committee. There was another aspect of the labourers question which ought as soon as possible to engage the attention of the right hon. Gentleman. When the Land Act of 1903 was going through the House, the late Chief Secretary promised that in the following year he would deal with the labourers question as a whole—agricultural labourers and urban labourers. They were still awaiting the fulfilment of that promise. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to introduce as soon as possible another Bill dealing with the question of the urban labourers, which was equally pressing and important. He heartily supported the Second Reading of the Bill.

*MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said that owing to the fact that this Bill was put down for Second Reading to-day, and that it was not expected for another week or ten days, he had not had as great an opportunity of studying its details as he would have liked. But while he said that he would like to add that he welcomed the Bill and he thought it contained—with the exception of a few points here and there with which he did not agree—practically everything which had been expected by Members who had espoused the cause of the labourers for some years past. The question of the labourers in Ireland had been discussed so frequently that he thought every person in the House who had taken any interest in it had long ago come to the conclusion that any improvement must be along three lines. The first and most important point was the cheapening of the money to carry out the Labourers Acts; the second was the simplification and cheapening of the procedure for obtaining a cottage; and the third was the provision of some means by which rural councils which had not up to the present done their duty in carrying out the Labourers Acts should be compelled to do so, or if they refused to do so the powers which were vested in them by the Labourers Acts should be transferred to some person—either a permanent official or a person appointed temporarily for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Acts in reference to the particular district. He was glad to see that the Chief Secretary and the draughtsman of the Bill had worked on those well-known lines. In fact it would have been absurd and quite futile to introduce a Bill which did not proceed upon the lines he had indicated, for, undoubtedly, such a measure would have met with the fate which the Bill of 1904 received. They were promised in 1903, when they were asked not to press the labourers clauses in the Land Act of that year, that in the following year that question would be fully dealt with. Irishmen knew how that promise was kept. A Bill, it was true, was introduced in 1904 which achieved absolutely nothing. Even the hon. Member for South Tyrone admitted that they had done right in not allowing that Bill to become law. With reference to the cumbrous nature of the proceedings which led up to obtaining a cottage for a labourer in Ireland he agreed with the hon. Member for South Roscommon that those proceedings, although they had been very materially simplified in this Bill, could be still further simplified. Those who had read the various Labourers Acts knew that there was an enormous number of operations to be gone through, many of which could be perfectly well done without. Labourers cottages did not cost very much money. The whole of the land and the cottage together cost from £150 to £200. It was evident that dealing with a cottage of that size was not the same thing as dealing with an entire estate, and although it might from a legal point of view be equally necessary to safeguard the title of the one as of the other, it was often the case that they had to spend a sum of money in proving title almost equal to the value of the land itself. Thus the money and the energy they were spending was altogether out of proportion to the object which they had in view. He had always maintained that the procedure ought to be simplified in the following manner, and even if a mistake did occasionally happen, and it was found that the money was paid to the wrong person, such an accident would be so rare that it would not materially affect the question at all. In Section 2, it said that—

> "Where the compensation payable to a person claiming any interest in land does not exceed the sum of £60 and the claimant gives *prima facie* evidence that he is a person having power to sell under the Land Clauses Acts, and satisfies the district council that for not less than six years immediately preceding he, or his immediate predecessor in title, has been personally, or by an agent, in receipt of the rents or profit of the land, the claimant may be dealt with by the district council as the absolute owner of the interest in respect of which he claims," etc.

In this case they should leave out all reference to "*prima facie* evidence." He thought a very great advance would be made in this matter if they took the fact that money had been paid for a specified number of years as sufficient evidence of title to a plot of ground. If they had to get *prima facie* evidence they would be just in the same position that they were in at the present moment. It had been suggested that the money which at present stood to the credit of several counties of Ireland and which unfortunately had not been used would not be touched by the Bill. If so, some of his objections to Clauses 17 and 18 would fall, but he still thought every inducement ought to be given under the altered conditions to those counties to make up the leeway in the future as to the building of labourers' cottages. If they took away a penny under this Bill from those counties which had not built many cottages, they would be hitting the wrong man. The farmer would not be affected in any way. It would be the labourers who would be affected, and it would be unjust to punish them for the faults of other people, a fault which Ulster Unionists had always done their best to remove. It had been pointed out that in some counties there was no necessity for the expenditure of large sums of money. That was not the case in his county, county Antrim. There was great necessity for it in that county, and a great deal of leeway had to be made up in that respect there. He welcomed very heartily the improved facilities given by the Bill, but he still objected very strongly to any of the facilities which existed at the present moment being taken away. He did not see any necessity for it. It seemed to him that by taking away the sum of £2,468 from his own county and converting it into a few hundreds owing to the small number of cottages which had been built in that county, they were doing an unjustice. With regard to the question of appeal there was a very considerable difference of opinion amongst all sections of Irishmen. He personally thought that an appeal of some sort should be had beyond the Local Government Board. He did not want to say anything against the Local Government Board, but he believed that in most country districts in Ireland the persons interested in transactions of this sort were the tenant and the landlord. The feeling amongst them was that there should be an outside tribunal to which appeals might be made. He thought either the assize court or the county court was the proper court to go to. The procedure of the county court was not very expensive. These courts were always fairly accessible, and they sat with sufficient frequency to meet all the necessities of the case. When the Bill went to the Committee he should certainly endeavour to have an Amendment to that effect introduced. The advance of £4,250,000 out of the Land Purchase Fund, at 3¼ per cent. instead of at a minimum of £3 9s. 4d. was a great advance on the present condition of things. That was the greatest benefit which the Bill would confer on the rural district councils and the labourers in Ireland. He would be the last person in the House, although he belonged to the Party opposed to the right hon. Gentleman, to withhold his small meed of praise from him for the Bill. He saw before him a future for the labourer which he had been long looking forward to. He fully admitted that the larger question of land purchase had up to the present blocked the way, but now that the land question had been settled in a satisfactory way and that this question of labourers' cottages had come to the front, he was very glad that the Irish Executive had lost no time in tackling it, and, he thought, tackling it in a very proper and statesmanlike manner.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.) said the Chief Secretary for Ireland deserved the thanks of the labourers of Ireland for introducing this Bill and for the liberal grant of money he was making for the erection of labourers' cottages. Undoubtedly the giving of the grant-in-aid from the Treasury would be a great boon to the labourers and to the ratepayers of Ireland. While congratulating the right hon. Gentleman on the Bill, he regretted that the Chief Secretary had not seen his way to give relief to those councils which had done most and had taxed themselves most heavily to bring the old Acts into operation. He hoped that the Chief Secretary would make Clause 18 retrospective so as to give some relief to those rural and district councils which had done so much in the past. If Clause 18 were made retrospective, it would undoubtedly afford some measure of relief to the ratepayers. He thought, moreover, the Chief Secretary should give to those councils who had worked the Labourers Acts fairly and honestly a bonus or a premium in the way of an additional grant in order to encourage them to continue to carry on the public work which they were doing, and which tended greatly to the national good. Under the Bill if those councils continued this philanthropic work they would tax themselves still more heavily than they had done in the past, and some assistance should be afforded to them, especially when it was considered that the councils in the North of Ireland had done nothing in this matter, and would get the same benefits under the Bill as the councils who had acted. The additional rate would press rather heavily upon the ratepayers, and he was not prepared to object to it, but he expected that the Chief Secretary would give them some additional relief. He trusted, in addition to making Clause 18 retrospective, the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to have the conditions as to the repayment of outstanding loans made retrospective. That would help the district councils to continue to work the Labourers Acts and to build cottages at a comparatively small cost. Those were the only points to which he now desired to direct the attention of the Chief Secretary but he intended in Committee to deal with the simplication of procedure, the question of reducing the clerical and legal expenses, and other matters. He believed that on the whole the Bill was a good one, and that, as the hon. and learned Member for Waterford had said, it was an honest attempt to settle the labourers question. For that reason he heartily supported it.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said he desired to associate himself most heartily with what had been said by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford. In its main features he thought this was a most satisfactory Bill. It was a large and generous attempt to settle the question. With regard to Clause 18, he did not understand how there could be any doubt as to its meaning. It left all moneys now standing to the credit of the counties for Exchequer contributions untouched, but it provided in the future what really would be a substantial measure of relief to those counties which had spent large sums under the Labourers Acts. All those counties in future would draw an increased share in proportion to the number of cottages they had erected. That provision would undoubtedly be a hardship on the county of Mayo. That county had standing to its credit an unexpended balance of the Exchequer grant larger than any other county, namely, £9,558. It was not the fault of the county; it was derived from the condition of its population. The small farmers were labourers who made use of their liberty to work over in England as labourers under circumstances of hardship, and therefore labourers' cottages had not been erected in Mayo because the people did not need them so much. An appeal was made that the county of Mayo being a poor county ought not to be deprived of its share of the grant because they could not share in the benefits of the Act. He felt so strongly on the labourers question that he was quite prepared to surrender their share so far as it was taken from them by Clause 18, and to make that sacrifice for the good of the labourers, although it would not be a fair thing to take away from them that which already stood to the credit of the county. The finance of the Bill had been dealt with very lucidly by the hon. Member for Waterford. Irish finance had been brought to such a condition of muddle and confusion that he was not surprised that the Irish Secretary should not know what he was doing when dealing with it. The experts to the Treasury were the only persons who were fully acquainted with it. He wished to direct attention to two points. He thought that on the whole they had every reason frankly to thank the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary for the grant of £28,000 a year. They had been fair and frank, and he entirely acquitted both of them of having been privy to the various devices and tricks by which the supposed contribution from Irish funds had been swollen. He wanted to know why the £28,000 was to be passed through the Irish Development Grant under Sub-section 2 of Clause 14. The effect of that provision would be that the whole burden of the £28,000 a year would fall on the Development Grant. It would always be taken out of the grant before it was recouped by Parliament, with the result that the fund would be always £28,000 short, and the recoupment by Parliament would, so far as it remained for Irish purposes be a perfect figment. The fund would always be out of the £28,000, and, practically speaking, for Irish uses it would be taken out of the grant and not out of the Treasury. That was a point to which the Chief Secretary ought to direct his attention, and if the Government thought it was necessary to pass the money through the Development Grant it ought to be voted to the Development Grant at the commencement of the financial year. He was bound to say, although he did not like looking a gift horse in the mouth, that the observations of the hon. Member for Waterford as to the £150,000 taken from the Fines Fund applied in a minor degree to the £6,000 taken from the Exchequer contribution. The £6,000 would come in any case, and how they could maintain that by taking it out of one pocket and putting it into another they were making a free grant he could not understand. As to the question of the simplification of procedure, he though the hon. Member for North Antrim could hardly have studied the Bill enough when he made light of the simplification of procedure. He thought they had to thank the Government for a great deal. He entirely agreed with the hon. Member for South Roscommon in the valuable suggestion he made. It was enormously important to have as few investigations as possible, because in every investigation they must employ lawyers. He had a letter from a lawyer which showed that they sometimes had a sense of decency. It was all very fine to talk about lawyers, but even the hon. Member for South Tyrone himself, if he was engaged in an arbitration, would scurry off to the best lawyer he could get. They must have lawyers as they must have doctors, but what they must do was to mitigate the evil by minimising the number of occasions on which they required these useful but expensive people. Therefore, let them examine the Bill with the view of reducing the number of occasions on which lawyers must be brought in. He was told that one great cause of the cost was arbitration. As the Bill stood at present arbitration must take place by separate inquiry from the inquiry as to the merits of the scheme. He did not know why the two things should not be merged in one, but a rough and ready system would be quite sufficient when they are buying only an acre of land. Enormous costs were incurred in these transactions, and he appealed to the Attorney-General to make every exertion to get round that difficulty. One great advantage in this matter was that the right hon. Gentleman could act boldly, for there was practically no opposition, and he (Mr. Dillon) believed that some simple system could be devised which would have the effect of reducing these costs and doing no injustice to anyone. There were two of the clauses in the Bill to which he attached great importance. Under the Act of 1903, when the labourers clauses were withdrawn, there was a special provision to meet the case of the labourers put in Clause 4 under which the Estates Commissioners were authorised in the case of the sale of untenanted land to give without expense of any kind a portion of the land into the hands of trustees for the purpose of the Labourers Acts. That provision had, however, been inoperative, because owing to some legal difficulty when the clause was put into operation the whole thing was found to be unworkable. The Attorney-General had dealt with this matter by Clause 20 in a workmanlike manner. It was open to the Estates Commissioners under that clause wherever they had untenanted land—and they had 60,000 or 80,000 acres of land in their possession—to take a portion of that land and hand it over to the district council, and this would be effected without the expense and difficulties of the present system. That was a most valuable clause. There was another point to which he wished to refer. He thought it ought to be made perfectly clear that the labourers should be entitled to get advances for the purchase of small plots of land where, in the discretion of the Estates Commissioners, it was desirable so as to make them small farmers. He did not think it would be either useful or possible to turn all the labourers of Ireland into small farmers, because, in the first place, the state of a small farmer was not always compatible with that of a labourer, and in the second, the area of land in Ireland was not sufficient for that purpose. He attached, however, great importance to the fact that there should be held out to the labourers of Ireland, not only this great boon of giving them in the near future the opportunity of living like civilised human beings, but the prospect that by sobriety and industry they could improve their position and become small farmers. Such a thing as that must redound to the benefit of Ireland, because while during the last twenty years large farmers in all parts of England and Ireland were becoming bankrupt, the small farmers never gave way. The storm passed over their head, and no matter how great the depression was they hung on to their homesteads, and despite all disadvantages raised up a family. The small farmers and labourers, therefore, were the source to which they must look to build up a vigorous nation. Clause 19 was a good clause, but he did not like the qualification attached to it of only making advances to a man who had been a tenant of the district council for five years. He thought the qualification ought to be frankly removed, because in many of the districts which he knew, where large tracts of untenanted lands were coming into the hands of the district councils, there were hundreds of men waiting for holdings on those untenanted lands who were not tenants of the district council, but who should not for that reason be barred out. He reminded the Chief Secretary that the Estates Commissioners two years ago in their discretion, to the best of their judgment, interpreted that provision of the Act of 1903, and held that even without this section they were entitled to give land where they thought the need of the small farmers had been met—they were entitled to give advances to the labourers and even to the artisans of the towns for the purchase of farms. They were, however, checked in this by the late Government. He did not know how the law now stood, but he knew the Land Commissioners had exercised that view and that there were now small tenants who had been made farmers under the Act of 1903 because the Estates Commissioners held that they had that power. Unfortunately that practice had been stopped, but he hoped the Chief Secretary would look into that clause so that he might on the division of these great grass ranches see that the claims of the labourers were considered as well as the claims of the small farmers. The right hon. Gentleman might congratulate himself on his great success. He had introduced a very radical and sweeping measure which had met with nothing but warm approval from all the Irish Members in the House. He would not regret that they had abstained from forcing the Government to take up the larger question of Irish government if an opportunity were given them after twenty years of disappointment and fruitless endeavour to lay the foundation of a settlement of the difficulties of the labourers of Ireland. This would be one of the greatest steps ever taken in the direction of elevating the Irish labouring population from the degradation and misery into which they had sunk through the passing of unjust laws. He hoped his success would encourage the Chief Secretary to further efforts in the same direction, and perhaps the right hon. Gentleman himself would admit that his success was in some measure due to the new departure he had taken in consulting the Irish Members before he introduced his Bill.

*MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.) congratulated the Chief Secretary upon the bold lines upon which he had framed this measure, which was designed to benefit a large and deserving class of persons who were unable to pay the rent usually demanded for sanitary houses such as they all desired they should occupy. He regretted certain omissions from the Bill, but he hoped they might be remedied in the Committee stage. One of those omissions was the absence of any encouragement to deserving labourers to look forward to the time when they might become the owners of the cottages they occupied, and the plot of land attached to it. He thought that decent honest labourers in rural parishes who had paid rents steadily were entitled to expect that the Government which was doing so much for them should go a little further, and enable them to purchase their cottages. He regretted that there was no reference in the Bill to a movement in that direction, but he hoped the Chief Secretary would favourably consider the question of including a provision of that kind. He was not overlooking the fact that in the Bill facilities were given to enable deserving labourers, who had paid rent regularly for five years, to become owners of plots of land adjacent to their cottages. He was glad to see that provision, and he hoped many labourers would avail themselves of it. They had in Ireland an increasing number of hardworking fishermen, who were practically labourers, and were not able to pay the market value of a sanitary house, and he thought it would not be an unreasonable broadening of this legislation if that deserving class were given the benefits of the Bill. Another class deserving of consideration was the rural labourers who live in small urban areas. They got their employment on the land adjacent to the towns, and were in all respects rural labourers, and they should be provided for in a measure of this kind in exactly the same way as labourers living in rural areas. He confessed to a feeling of discouragement when the Chief Secretary answered a Question recently on this point in a manner which, though not intended to be discourteous, was remarkable for brevity. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman might yet see his way to moderate the terms on which at present advances for providing houses for the working classes were granted to the smaller urban areas. Where an urban area decided there was a necessity for improving the housing of the working classes—which included many rural labourers—the cost of the advance, including sinking fund, was practically 5 per cent., and they found that when land had to be obtained compulsorily, no scheme could be carried out except at such a loss to the ratepayers as to prevent progress being made. As a member of an urban district council for several years, he had done his best to get the dwellings of the labouring classes improved. His council had carried scheme after scheme, but when they found the Local Government Board insisting upon the building of comparatively expensive houses, and the whole of the loan with sinking fund had to be repaid in forty years, they had very reluctantly been obliged to abandon their schemes. In all similar areas the class of houses erected for working people were deteriorating with a consequent development of conditions which favoured the spread of disease, and he urged the Chief Secretary to extend the Bill in the direction he had indicated. Another objection which he had to the Bill was that it was proposed not to be operative until the 1st of April next. The result of delay in bringing the measure into operation would be the hanging up of all schemes on which rural councils were now engaged. He knew the reason for the delay was the indisposition of the Exchequer to find the money until the next financial year. The Government were going to get immediate credit for their good intentions, but were going to delay finding the money as long as possible. The result would be that all over Ireland rural councils would decide to suspend schemes. After the touching references to which they had listened from the Chief Secretary as to the pitiable condition in which many of the labouring classes lived and the immense amount of unhealthiness which prevailed amongst them, he put it to the right hon. Gentleman whether he should insist upon the date named in the Bill. The principal objection which he entertained to the Bill in its present shape related to Clause 18. He spoke on behalf of a county which had done its duty in this matter, and which would, as regarded the richest part of it, be a gainer by the new financial arrangement which was proposed. But in some parts of the division where the population was not so prosperous the rural councils had not been able to display activity in cottage building. He found that in the county of Londonderry 232 cottages had been built, and the county had no balance standing to its credit on the Exchequer Contribution Account. Under Clause 18 Londonderry would be entitled to get consideration for the progress they had made in cottage building. But there were other counties in the north of Ireland who had not seen their way to go forward in cottage building. He found that Antrim had built up to date or had received sanction to building schemes covering 274 cottages, and it received last year £1,722 as the Exchequer contribution. Armagh built thirty-seven cottages, and had £4,418 to its credit. Donegal, which was one of their poorest counties, built 305 cottages and the whole of its grant had been exhausted. In County Down 211 cottages were built, and there was at present £3,264 standing to its credit. In Fermanagh, eighty-one cottages had been built, and the whole credit had been exhausted. Londonderry built 226 cottages, and the whole credit was exhausted there. In Tyrone the total was 232 cottages, and at present that county had no balance remaining. As he read the proposal under Clause 18, it would work out as regarded Ulster generally that the share, of which the Exchequer grant for 1904–5 was £12,410, would, if this scheme were carried, fall to £2,000. In Munster the grant in the year 1904–5 was £11,066, but in that province it would go up to £15,500. In Leinster the share was £9,419, but under this clause it would go up to £12,000. Connaught's share was £3,913, but if this clause were passed without alteration it would fall to £500. Those inequalities were sufficient to show that some re-consideration of the financial terms of the Bill were absolutely necessary, and he suggested to the Chief Secretary that as all parties representing Ireland were anxious to facilitate the passing of the measure he should take into consideration the advisability of adopting some plan by which he would put matters upon a fairer basis in this regard. He did not see why a district which had very largely met the need for labourers' cottages already should have any cause, or still less, should expect to receive additional grants for the work which it had done in the past. Connaught had not been able to move forward for the reasons which had already been given, and why should she still suffer and increasingly suffer, and her advance be made so difficult that the rural councils of the province in company with those of Ulster, who had not yet moved, would find the path of progress absolutely barred? He submitted that it would be quite impossible for Connaught to go forward under this Act.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was not quite sure how the advances in regard to the £4,500,000 out of the Irish Land Purchase Fund would affect the issue of the money for the main purposes of the Act of 1903. There had in the past been great difficulty in connection with the issue of this money, and it constituted one of the hindrances to the working of the Act of 1903. He wished to know what would be the precise effect of this proposal, which he hoped would not interfere with the provision of money for the main purposes of the Act. They were all agreed as to the desirability of making proper provision for the labourers in regard to cottages and holdings, but it should not be forgotten that the Act of 1903 had for its object the provision of funds by which a transfer of land should take place, and nothing should be done to increase those difficulties. With regard to agricultural depression, he thought it had been more severely felt by the larger than by the smaller farmers. In England during the last fifteen or twenty years they had gone through a transition period during which the larger farms had been turned into smaller ones. But although they had been doing that in this country they had also been turning arable land into pasture because it was more profitable. He hoped that nothing would be done without grave consideration which would result in the breaking up of grass lands which were very productive, and which, once broken up, could not be brought back again to their original state for a great many years. The fact that they were divided by keen Party differences did not prevent him offering his congratulations to the Chief Secretary upon the reception which his measure had received; it was quite evident that from no quarter was there any desire to do anything but further its progress, and they would all endeavour to make the measure as near perfect as possible.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.) said his first and most gratifying duty was to express his cordial thanks to the Members who had spoken well of the Bill and had addressed their congratulations to him upon having succeeded in framing a measure which appeared to have given a good deal of satisfaction in Ireland. For the note which was struck in very kind terms by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, and continued by the hon. Member for East Mayo, the right hon. Gentleman opposite, and the Members for Ulster, he offered his sincere thanks. He wished also to thank them for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was very sensitive of what had been said on this point, and he ventured to assert that it had not often happened that an Irish Secretary had found a colleague so ready to enter into his views, and to help him in carrying them out. It was a great satisfaction to the Government to find that the Bill had given so much satisfaction in Ireland. It was a good omen for the future, and one which would encourage the Government to persevere with other remedial measures which were intended as far as possible to remove, and he hoped would remove, the economic evils from which Ireland had so long suffered. It was a very great pleasure no doubt to find that any Bill brought forward by a British Government was received with equal cordiality by Irish Members sitting in different parts of the House and holding opinions greatly opposed one to another. It made one think one was living in some happy region peopled by some Irish poet of far distant date. It was very agreeable to the Government to find Irish Members coming together with open minds and he hoped open hearts, to make the Bill one really fit to attain its objects. He hoped this would be more the case, and that the more remedial measures were brought before the House the more occasions would be found on which Irish Members of different political opinions might be able to co-operate for the good of their country. The hon. Member for Waterford had asked him to go into Committee with an open mind in regard to the Bill. He hoped he should bring an open mind with regard to it. His only cause for hesitation was that when a Minister adopted an attitude of that kind he was told on every Amendment that he ought to adopt it because he had said he had an open mind. He must guard himself against having an argument *ad hominem* of that kind brought to him. He would go into Committee with a desire to profit by any suggestion from whatever quarter it came. He should be glad to have it shown that some of the provisions of the Bill might be improved, or other provisions introduced better calculated to attain the desired ends. He was aware, as every Minister who had not lived in Ireland must feel, how difficult it was to understand the country for which they were legislating. As to the preparation of the Bill, he had profited by the suggestions of the Member for Waterford and some of his colleagues—suggestions which he always received gladly from any Irish Member of whatever views—and the Government would be very glad to profit by any suggestions made in Committee. He now came to the criticisms passed upon the Bill, or rather to such of them as admitted of being dealt with shortly, for some of them turned upon matters so complicated that they would take a long time to explain, and it would hardly be prudent to enter upon them at this stage. He began with that made by the hon. Member for Waterford and the hon. Member for Londonderry with regard to the date for the commencement of the Act. The Government were anxious that the work should begin as soon as possible, but it would be much more convenient if the financial provisions were to take effect from the beginning of the financial year. It would be difficult—he did not say impossible—to begin on the 1st of January rather than the 1st of April, the beginning of the financial year. The matter was one, however, which would have his consideration. There was also another difficulty. The Act could hardly take effect immediately, because a number of regulations would have to be issued; a great deal of time would be required to frame those regulations in proper form, and he thought this could hardly be done before the 1st of January. Moreover, there was nothing at all to prevent a rural district council from beginning its arrangements so soon as the measure received the Royal assent. The council could begin making its schemes—could, indeed, do anything except apply for money. All the other steps under the Act could be taken, and they were steps which would occupy some time. For that reason he thought the inconvenience would be much less than the hon. Member apprehended. However, he was quite ready to consider the matter.

MR. JOHN REDMOND asked if the new procedure as to inquiry by the inspector would come into effect when the Act was passed.

MR. BRYCE said the suggestion was one which might have consideration.

MR. BARRIE: That would get over the difficulty.

MR. BRYCE: Of course, it was a matter in which he must not be taken to commit the authorities at the Treasury, because they knew these matters better than he did, but speaking *ex improviso* he did not see why that could not be done. A question was asked by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin as regarded the additional stock to be issued and the addition which this would make to the loans under the Land Purchase Act. It would be an addition, but the amount of loans issued as an addition to the loans floated for the Land Purchase Act would be comparatively small. The loan would be issued gradually, and there would be no interference with the issue of land purchase stock. He saw no reason to apprehend that the progress of land purchase would be delayed. The suggestion of the right hon. Member as to the clerks to the rural councils should have his consideration. Now he came to the point which had received most attention, and that was the financial relations under Clause 18. The hon. Member for East Mayo had explained the meaning of that clause correctly. What was meant was that after the commencement of the Act the amount of money which would be paid out of the Exchequer contribution should be paid to each rural council in respect of the number of cottages which it had built at the time of the commencement of the Act. That would give a very considerable and substantial relief to those rural councils which had been hitherto most active in completing cottages, which had been bearing the burden for some time, and which he thought were specially entitled to relief. Of course it was impossible, as funds were limited, to give relief to A. and B., without giving less relief to C. and D. He would be very glad if it was in their power to satisfy the north as well as the south. But the members for the north must be reminded that the ratepayers had had a very easy time hitherto. They had done very little in the way of building cottages, and in future they would have at any rate this advantage, that they would be able to build cottages upon far easier terms than they could have done hitherto. He hoped, therefore, that they would not think that the Government had been at all indifferent to their claims. They had left them the money now standing to their credit, which in the case of two counties was a considerable sum. They had tried on the whole to hold the balance as fairly as possible between the different parts of the country, and their course had been taken not from the wish to deal hardly with them, but only because they had fixed their minds on the supreme and paramount object of endeavouring to get as many labourers' cottages built as possible. If there was any means of easing the thing off without retarding that main object they were quite willing when they got into Committee to give fair consideration to it. Now he came to the question of petty sessions clerks. Let him say at once that the hon. Member for Waterford's suspicions with regard to the

Treasury clerks in this matter were really quite unfounded. He must acquit the Treasury clerks of having any share in the results complained of. The matter was rather too complicated to go into at full length now, but he would point out that the total loss of the local authorities in Ireland would be a very small one.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: It was £5,000 or £6,000 last year.

MR. BRYCE did not think it would exceed £5,000, and it was only one-eleventh of a penny. It would really be imperceptible to each county, and he thought it was, under the circumstances, not too much to ask that a very small sacrifice of that kind might be endured. When he came to the question of the court of appeal, he must say once more that he would be extremely glad of any suggestions that would provide a plan satisfactory to everybody. But no part of the Bill had caused him more trouble and difficulty than this, in which he endeavoured to find a body to whom the appeal might be entrusted. He agreed that the High Court was quite out of the question. It was much too costly. He did not think that either the judge of assize or the judge of the county court would be a quite satisfactory court of appeal, and he was still inclined to the belief that the plan embodied in the Bill, which had several precedents, both Irish and English, in its favour, would be found to be the most acceptable and, on the whole, would be most likely to give a cheap and prompt issue, the main thing to be aimed at. It was necessary that the procedure should be quick and cheap, and he believed that would be better secured by the Local Government Board than in any other way. The hon. Member for South Antrim had asked a question with regard to the proposal that 16 per cent. should come out of one fund and 20 per cent. out of another. All that that meant was that the amount of the whole £50,000 which was to come out of the direct Treasury grant, compared with that which was to come out of the various Irish funds that were grouped together, would be in the proportion of 20 per cent. to 16 per cent. The hon. Member for South Tyrone, among other criticisms, had observed that one of the great causes of expense in working the Labourers Acts hitherto had been the charges paid to lawyers and architects. He quite agreed with him, and the more they could diminish the costs paid to lawyers and architects the better. But it must be remembered that they could not take away a man's bread without considering what his rights were. And this was a difficulty which was constantly recurring whenever operations in land and houses had been carried on on a small scale. They had tried in the Bill to reduce that expenditure to the lowest possible point. If anyone could show him a way of reducing it further he would be happy to do so, but at the same time they must have some security that the rural councils were getting the title. It was no use giving them land for somebody else to come in afterwards and dispute the title. On the other hand, if a mistake was made and a man's property was taken without notice to him, and if he came afterwards to show that he had a good claim and that land was taken from him without any compensation, he thought he must be allowed to establish his case. There must be some means given to him by which he could recover what he wanted. He believed that that would be an exceedingly rare case, and therefore he was not afraid of any serious trouble, but still they must provide for some sort of inquiry and for some sort of remedy for a man whose land had been improperly taken. If they could, however, further cut down in any way the lawyers' cost he would be very glad to do it. The hon. Member for East Mayo had commented upon the clauses which were intended to enable labourers to become tenants. He would be very glad to consider the suggestion which the hon. Member had thrown out for enlarging the operation of that clause. He agreed that it was a very important object, and it was one which unfortunately had not been attained under the clauses of the Land Purchase Act which were meant to secure it.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): I should like to know whether money will be advanced for the purpose of stocking farms, as in the case of Denmark?

MR. BRYCE said he was afraid that he could not go into that now. It was a point which really did not belong to the Bill. Whatever powers were given would be given to the Estates Commissioners and without knowing what their view was he thought it would hardly be prudent for him at present to express an opinion on that matter. Another point of importance was mentioned by the hon. Member for South Tyrone. He referred to the case in which the object was not to build a new cottage but to enlarge an existing one. If the hon. Member looked at Clause 2, he would see that it was not necessary to make a new scheme. A new scheme was a matter of time and cost, and it was provided in Clause 2 that where a rural district council had acquired a cottage it might enlarge that cottage without the necessity of making a new scheme. He believed that in many cases that would be found to be the cheaper method. Reference had been made to Clause 18 with respect to the application of the residue of the Exchequer contribution. The truth was that the labourers housing problem in many parts, and particularly in the Co. Mayo and the congested districts of Galway, was very much less acute than in the south and centre of Ireland, and he was glad to hear the hon. Member for East Mayo say that in the interest of Ireland generally he would not take objection to the Bill if Connaught received rather less. The same thing was no doubt true in regard to Co. Sligo. The charge on the rates for the building of cottages would not be heavy, because there were few cottages required there. The remedies needed in these counties were of a different nature. A question was also raised as to applying this Bill to the case of labourers in towns. He did not deny the importance of the question, but it was a new and large question and entirely different from the one dealt with in the Bill. He believed himself that the question of housing labourers in towns did not need to be dealt with on the particular lines laid down in this Bill. He believed it could be dealt with on different lines, more like those which had been applied to the housing problem in the towns of England. He thought that in most of the Irish towns it might be dealt with without involving any loss to the ratepayers. He was told that there were companies in some of the Irish cities, and he knew there were companies in London and he dared say in other cities of England, which had succeeded in making a respectable profit. There were companies which provided housing for the very poorest, and paid 5 per cent., and he saw no reason why that should not be done in Ireland. Therefore the problem in regard to the urban labourer was different from that of the rural labourer. He was not saying that the case might not be met by a Bill dealing with the housing of the urban labourers, but he did not think that it belonged to this Bill. He was not prepared to deal with it on the lines laid down here. He thought he had now covered the criticism which had been offered in regard to the Bill.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said the hon. Member for Londonderry had raised the question whether fishermen were included in the Bill. His own impression was that they were, and he was amazed at the construction placed on the proposal by the hon. Member. His idea was that fishermen were included in the definition of "agricultural labourers" in the Bill.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY asked whether the outstanding loans would be granted the same terms as the new loans under this Bill.

MR. BRYCE said that the district councils would get considerable relief under the terms of the Bill, because they would get relief out of the Exchequer contribution in proportion to the number of cottages they built. As to outstanding loans, he was afraid that he could not give the hon. Member any answer. He did not think, at any rate, that he ought to hold out any hope. He did not wish to say that he would not consider the question, but the hon. Member must not take it from him that he was holding out any hope that what was suggested would be done.

Mr. MEAGHER (Kilkenny, N.) asked whether the question of providing artisans' dwellings in the rural districts would be dealt with in this Bill.

Mr. BRYCE said he did not think the definition of "labourer" could be extended beyond the definition given in the Land Purchase Acts. The whole question of that definition would have to be considered. As to fishermen, his impression was that the definition given in the Land Purchase Acts included fishermen, and if that was so it would be the definition adopted. There was one more point. He was very glad that the hon. and learned Member for Waterford had confirmed an impression which was very strong in his mind, that these cottages could be built at an average cost of £130. He himself thought it was prudent to take an outside estimate, and therefore took £170 as the sum, though he believed that with care and prudence, which he hoped the rural and district councils would exercise, and with the model schemes which the Local Government Board was prepared to give, they would be able to build for a good deal less. If that were so it was probable that they would be able to build a good many more than 25,000 cottages, and he should not be surprised if, with economy, they succeeded in getting 30,000. At all events, he hoped the rural district councils would do their utmost to work economically, and so enable the money to go as far as possible. He might add that he thought it would have been difficult to have induced Parliament to make so large a grant if it had not been for the extreme importance of the object in view, and he desired to associate himself with what had been said as to the immense importance to Ireland of improving the position of the labourers. He did not believe there was anything at the present moment which the country needed more. This Bill, if properly worked, ought to secure three things. In the first place, so far as housing was concerned, it ought to secure health, without which there could be no progress and very little moral or intellectual development, because ill-health was one of the things which drove men to despair and recklessness, and the solace commonly resorted to under such circumstances. In the second place, it ought to give them independence. There was nothing that affected a man more than to feel that he was living in a cottage to which he had a right, with the possession of a small holding of an acre of land which he might cultivate in his leisure hours; and that he might attain to that higher measure of manhood which they all desired to see in the citizens of a free country. In the third place, it would give hope—the hope of bettering his condition, of being able to save, to improve his position by the exercise of industry and intelligence, and to take the position of a tenant farmer and then acquire a holding under the Land Purchase Act. He trusted also that this Bill would give a more hopeful prospect not only to the individual labourers but to the country as a whole; because it would enable a very deserving and important class to turn their minds to the idea of living in their own country and improving it, instead of leaving it derelict. He never could forget the impression made upon him when passing through a railway station many years ago in the county of Roscommon. There he heard the melancholy cries of wives and mothers, of brothers and sisters in taking leave of their dear ones, who were departing as emigrants for America. He felt then that nothing better could be done for Ireland than to retain the people on the land and make Ireland a country which its native inhabitants wanted to live in and not to leave. If this Bill contributed in a small degree to the attainment of that object the grant would be justified.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said that every Member from Ireland must have appreciated the spirit and tone of the speech of the right hon. the Chief Secretary. That speech demonstrated that in introducing this Bill the right hon. Gentleman was doing something which was absolutely necessary for the welfare of Ireland. It was sad to think that a measure of this kind had not been introduced twenty or twenty-five years ago. The right hon. the Chief Secretary had referred to the sad scenes which he had witnessed in Roscommon years ago on the departure of emigrants to America. By a strange coincidence when he came into the House that afternoon the latest returns of emigration from Ireland were placed in his hand.

These showed figures which were simply deplorable, and this year there had been a great increase. In April and May this year the emigrants from Ireland numbered 5,600 and 8,500 compared with 4,800 and 6,000 in the same months last year. He was sure that every Irish Member must feel, in considering these returns, that if a Bill of the kind now before the House had been introduced in the same free and friendly spirit twenty-five years ago, it would undoubtedly have had the effect of staying that vast emigration from Ireland and keeping tens of thousands of people in their native land. He was glad that the Bill had been received with the unanimous approval of all sections of the House, and it was gratifying to find that the right hon. Gentleman felt the absolute necessity for it. Representing, as he did, with his hon. friend the Member for West Mayo, large counties in which there were thousands of agricultural labourers who were miserably housed and most unfortunately situated, he could say that this Bill would be accepted as a very great blessing and boon, and that it would be put in operation by the local authorities as soon as it became law. He regretted, however, that the Chief Secretary had not seen his way if not to do so in this Bill, at least to promise the introduction of some legislation for the benefit of the artisan population in the small towns of Ireland. No one representing a constituency in which there were considerable urban areas could be blind to the fact that there was a large class of the working population who were most deplorably and miserably housed; and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would soon see his way to introduce legislation which would enable urban authorities to put up decent houses for the artisan population in the towns of Ireland. It was true that a commencement had been made in this direction by some local authorities, but the difficulties in the way of obtaining money and in working the machinery of the existing Acts prevented much being done; and it was a perfect disgrace to go through the back slums of the small towns of Ireland and see the conditions under which the artisans there were obliged to live and bring up their families. He believed that the Bill now before the House would pass rapidly and work satisfactorily; that everybody in Ireland would acknowledge that the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary had met the demands of the Irish Members fairly; and those right hon. Gentlemen would find their reward in the fact that they had secured the amelioration of the condition of the vast majority of the people of Ireland. It was almost impossible for an Irish Member who had been in the House for any length of time not to express regret that the present condition of things in regard to the attitude of the Government had not existed long ago; if it had it would have been better not only for Ireland but for Great Britain. Twenty years ago the agricultural labourers of Ireland had a grievance in the same way that they had one to-day, but bit by bit and year after year the Irish Members had pressed their claims upon the House. Sometimes attempts were made to deal with the position, but at other times they were told that the House of Commons had no opportunity of dealing with this large class in Ireland. To-day, however, there seemed to be a general recognition all round that there were grievances in Ireland, that large classes in that country were in a miserable condition, that it was the duty of the House to listen to the reasonable demands of the Irish people and to give them what they would have had long ago if they had had an opportunity of dealing with these matters themselves. He hoped the Bill would pass through Committee as rapidly as it would pass through the House, and he was sure that the Chief Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be repaid for what they had done in this matter.

*MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe) said the statistics in regard to Irish emigration and former depopulation were appalling to anyone who read the history of Ireland, and still the depopulation—he had almost said the extermination—of the people went on. As his hon. friend had said, fresh statistics had appeared within the last month, showing a continued increase over the corresponding period of last year. It was almost a case of a country being "bled white," and if anything could be done to keep the people of Ireland in their own country and to give them an opportunity of remaining there it must be welcomed by this House. The population in the last forty years had been diminished by nearly 50 per cent., and if a people so patriotic and so intensely fond of their own country as the Irish were found to be leaving it in hundreds and in thousands, it argued that there was something rotten in the state of Denmark. This fact stood out for observation to anyone who had gone across Ireland. The traveller went over large and fertile tracts of grass country in which there were no men, women or children, and then he arrived, say, at the bogs and rocks of Connemara to find human beings herded together under conditions of great discomfort. This simply showed that men, women and children had been swept away in order that cattle might be put in their place. The cattle were kept on these lands because it was thought they might pay a little better or cause less trouble than men, women, and children. An hon. friend who had now left the House had expressed the opinion that it would be a great pity to break up these grass lands into acres, but if every labourer had an acre of land it would not absorb one-tenth of the land available, and he should like to see a larger quantity of land devoted to this purpose than even one-tenth. He hoped the Bill would be read a second time unanimously and go through Committee rapidly.

*MR. PATRICK WHITE (Meath, N.) said that in the few words he had to address to the House he would confine his remarks to the clauses which affected his constituency. In Meath the land was all in pasture, there was no employment, and a labourer could not support his family on an acre of land. The labourers demanded that the grazing ranches should be cut up into economic holdings and divided amongst them. He thought Clause 19 was not fair inasmuch as it provided that a labourer must, to reap the benefit of the Bill, remain in possession of his cottage for five years. The necessity for providing cottages in the county of Meath was one of extreme urgency. This House owed reparation to the people of the country for the foul crimes of the past, when human beings were swept off the land to make room for sheep and oxen. The depopulation of Meath for the past fifty years had no parallel in the worst governed European country. The following statistics told a sad tale. The county contained 579,320 statute acres and its population in 1841 was 183,828, while in 1901 it was 67,497, which meant a reduction of 116,331 in sixty years. That was the great clearance. In 1851 the population was 140,748, a reduction in a decade of 43,080. In 1841 the number of inhabited houses was 30,785, while in 1851 it was only 24,044, a decrease of 6,741. Clauses 19 and 20 of the Bill would not meet the emergency. No doubt Clause 19 contained a provision for the creation of a new tenancy, but it would be slow in operation, and it was necessary to take active steps to alleviate the difficulties which now existed, and to solve the problem. He thought arrangements should be made so that when land came into the market the district councils could act in conjunction with the Estates Commissioners for the purpose of buying and distributing the land. Everyone would admit that there was plenty of land to go round, and at all events men should be placed upon economic holdings. If the land were equally divided among the families in Co. Meath, the total number of which was 15,163, 34 per cent. of which occupied one room, or were in receipt of outdoor relief, there would be forty acres for each household. The people were huddled together in small spaces, while the land was given over to cattle and sheep. This was in his opinion a disgrace to civilisation, especially when it was considered that if the land were cut up into small holdings it would produce three times as much as it did by feeding cattle and sheep. It was deplorable that strong men should lack employment and children pine for food in a land teeming with plenty. Unless Clauses 19 and 20 were amended so as to give extended powers to districts councils the Bill was foredoomed to failure. If the local bodies were willing to pledge the security of the rates for the planting of the people on the soil the Government should assent, and not stand between them and the performance of that beneficent work.

*CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) said he wished to draw the attention of the House from one part of Ireland to another. He thought that to discuss the question of emigration, and that of the housing of the working classes in large towns was to go away from the subject matter of the Bill, but he did hope that the Chief Secretary might possibly be able to do something in the way of extending the statutory term of "labourer." It was quite impossible for the Government to go far afield and touch upon economic questions quite outside this Bill in regard to the overcrowding of large towns, but there were classes which approximated so closely to the statutory term of "labourer," that he knew the Ulster Unionist Members and other Irish Members would gladly see them included in the Bill. The difficulty raised by the right hon. Gentleman as to the date upon which the Bill should take effect when passed into law might, he thought, be met in the manner foreshadowed in the right hon. Gentleman's statement a short time previously. He had stated that they had large amounts of money lying idle in the precincts of Dublin Castle in connection with land sales, owing to the slackness of solicitors who did not attend to their work, and send in the estates which were in their hands to be dealt with. That money was to be used for practically the same purpose, or for an analagous purpose, and he suggested that some of it might be temporarily appropriated on loan and thus allow them to get the benefit of this Act at the earliest possible moment. He did not agree that large numbers of Irishmen left the country entirely owing to the condition of the dwelling-houses there. The evil which resulted in this emigration was far more deeply rooted than the housing of the labouring classes. Everyone admitted that the grievance of the labourers was a real one, but one difficulty up to now had been to get the farmers and labourers to act together for their common good. The farmers employed the labourers, and the labourers looked to the farmers in this matter of better housing when it came to requiring support in the district councils. The farmers in some parts of Ireland up to quite recently unfortunately seemed inclined to leave the matter where it was, and not to take advantage of the Labourers Acts. Hon. Members were struck with the disparity of progress in two counties like Down and Armagh under the old Labourers Acts. As a golden rule he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would bear in mind that the sins of the local district councils should not be visited on the labourers. The vital note of the Bill was to assist the labouring classes. It would be a great misfortune if the Bill, which undoubtedly bristled with good points, should be overshadowed by the fact that the local district councils raised insuperable difficulties, owing perhaps to the troublesome Acts they had had to deal with in the past, and that anything should occur to prevent the labouring classes getting the full advantage of this particular Bill. It would be a real benefit to a large section if the term "labourer" could be extended under this Bill. There was a large class who, although they did not actually labour with their hands in the agricultural farms, were labouring in scutch mills and in lime works and so forth. They were, to all intents and purposes, labourers, and therefore they should be included. He and his colleagues from Ulster heartily welcomed this measure, and he rose not for the purpose of criticising it adversely, but to throw out a few suggestions to the right hon. Gentleman which would facilitate the passage of the Bill when it came to the Committee stage. There was one point in Clauses 3 and 20, which might possibly claim the right hon. Gentleman's attention. A great amount of expense was incurred in proving title to an acre or half acre, and that had always been the fatal error in former Acts. They gladly welcomed the cheapening of procedure and he thought it would still more be cheapened if the Estates Commissioners could acquire the farms as they fell vacant instead of the district councils. This would be of great benefit to the labourers and would prevent unnecessary expense. He thought also there was a slight hardship involved in Clause 11 where no additional allowance would be made if a particular plot of ground was acquired from a farmer by compulsion, and they were not to take into consideration the question of compulsion in arriving at the price. It would be a hardship if a farmer who had lived all his life on a farm and had worked it into a prosperous condition, was compelled to hand over perhaps the best portion of the farm to the district council for building labourers cottages. He thought that clause could be softened in Committee. Another point to which he wished to direct the Chief Secretary's attention was the medium of investing the funds mentioned in Clause 13. It would be within the power of the right hon. Gentleman to do a great service to two departments, and confer a great benefit in Ireland, if permission was granted to invest the funds not only in trustee stocks, but in land stock. If the funds were invested in land stock it would increase the dealings in it and create a greater demand for it. He thought this matter would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman and he asked him to give it his earnest consideration. He thought it would be entering into a questionable realm to provide facilities for taking over cottages built under other Acts, or by private enterprise. Some of the cottages in existence were not so sanitary as they should be. He hoped the cottages to be built under this Bill would be better and more substantial than many of those which he had examined. Very often in these matters there was an exercise of false economy, and it was particularly necessary that cottages built in Ireland should be sound in the foundations and weather-proof. It would be a great mistake to strain after building an enormous number of very cheap cottages, which lasted but a few years; and he hoped the Chief Secretary would do his best to ensure that the buildings erected under this valuable Bill would be a lasting tribute to his energy.

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange) said reference had been made to the extension of the definition of agricultural labourer, and he would explain how the law stood in that matter. In the Land Act of 1903, an agricultural labourer was defined as any person other than a domestic or menial servant working for hire in a rural district whose average wages did not exceed 2s. 6d. a day. That definition included artisans of all kinds and fishermen; in fact, any person who worked for hire, whatever the nature of his work might be. The question was before the Government when the Bill was being framed, and they came to the conclusion that it was really impossible to extend that definition without bringing in classes to whom it was not desired to extend the benefits of the Act. That definition would apply to the existing Bill when it became law. One of the main objects of the Bill was to cheapen the procedure by reducing the costs. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford had referred to one point which he thought would have the effect of increasing the costs. Under the existing law if the amount of compensation was under £20, the money might be paid to a person not absolutely entitled to it, that was to say, a tenant for life or limited owner; but it was necessary for any person who received money, no matter how small the amount might be, to show title to it. It was only in cases of lands under settlement that this provision with reference to amounts under £20 was in operation. The hon. Member for East Mayo had referred to a case where the total amount of compensation was only £9, and yet four sets of solicitors were engaged, and the costs must have amounted to four or five times the amount of the compensation. They hoped by Clause 11 to put an end to that state of affairs, by providing that a *prima facie* title such as would be accepted by the Estates Commissioners under the Act of 1903 might be accepted by a rural district council, and when that title was shown, then, though there should be some error, the receipt for the money would operate as an absolute conveyance of the land. The land could never be taken away from the objects for which it had been vested in the council. If the wrong man were paid the rightful owner might afterwards recover the money from the district council, they having their remedy against the person to whom they first paid the money.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said this measure was a great act of historical justice. Three-fourths of the labourers concerned were the descendants of men who were the old 40s. freeholders of Ireland, who gave their votes in the time of open ballot for Catholic emancipation, but were immediately after deprived of their votes and exiled. For two generations they and their descendants had been in destitute circumstances on account of that action, and anything to restore them to their own land should be regarded as a great act of restitution.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said he desired to join in the congratulations to the Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General for Ireland, who was associated with the Chief Secretary in the preparation of this Bill, upon the very hearty reception that it had met with from all parts of the House. His only regret about the Bill was that it was not introduced in the late Parliament by the Unionist Government. This was a question of social reform that appealed to all sections, silenced the discord of Party warfare, and united them to work on behalf of a large and deserving class. There was no more deserving, long-suffering, and patient class than the labourers of Ireland. Something had already been done on their behalf under the present Acts. He was glad to say that in his own constituency, under a very able Chairman, whose whole heart was in the work, and a sympathetic council, a very large number of cottages had been built, and it was a delightful thing, as he had experienced, to visit these cottages and to see how proud the new tenants were of them, and how clean and well-kept the cottages were. As the Chief Secretary in his very sympathetic and eloquent speeches had said, what fresh hope and interest sprang into the lives of these hard working men and women! But although much had been done under the present Acts, he hoped and believed that a great deal more could be done under this Bill. At present the most earnest and enthusiastic council was hampered by all kinds of unnecessary conditions, especially by the enormous legal charges. This Bill, he believed, would very largely remedy those defects. There were possibly a few Members of the House who might feel that this legislation was rather too socialistic. They might say, Why not leave the provision of these labourers' cottages to private enterprise? The fact was that private enterprise had absolutely failed in this matter. Men and women were living in hovels which were a disgrace to our civilisation. Private enterprise was still more certain under the conditions in Ireland to meet with failure in the future. In England and Scotland, whatever their views on the land question might be, there were happily a large number of landlords who were proud of, and took an interest in their estate and the model cottages which they built. But in Ireland there would soon be no landlords. The land would belong to the tenants who tilled the soil. He was not complaining of that for a moment. He was one of those who for many years past had worked hard to get this reform. Every reform had its danger, and it was very clear that the tenant farmers, even in the most prosperous times, were not men of much wealth. They had a hard struggle to make both ends meet, and they had not the means, the training, or even in some cases the inclination to deal in a large and generous spirit with the needs of the labourers. They might deplore these things, but, after all, they were facts. So far as Ireland was concerned these circumstances seemed to him to make this Bill a necessity. The large towns, with all the attractions and excitement of town life, tended more and more to draw young men and young women from the country. The best check to that was to make country life more attractive, and he thought that this Bill went to the very root of the matter by making real homes for the labouring people instead of the wretched hovels they now used. The Chief Secretary had had a long, distinguished, and honourable career, but he did not believe the right hon. Gentleman had ever put his hand to a piece of work which gave him more satisfaction than the introduction of this measure, which he would pass into law with the unanimous support of every Irish Member of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

FINANCE BILL.

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said he had no wish whatever to enter into any discussion at this stage of the Finance Bill. It would be extremely inappropriate to do so, as nearly all the issues had been fully and amply discussed on the Budget resolutions of his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But he wished to take this last opportunity of making an appeal in the strongest terms he was capable of for the consideration in the coming financial year of the claims of sugar to relief from taxation. If hon. Members would go into the actual incidence of the sugar tax, and the proportion that that tax bore to the incomes of the workers of this country, they would find that it was a very serious burden upon the working classes. He would not attempt to labour this point, because anyone who would take the trouble to examine the tables of the quantities and cost of articles of food in the expenditure of the working classes given in the Blue-books could satisfy themselves in the course of that examination that the incidence of this tax on the very poor was a far more serious and heavy burden upon the poor than upon the rich, and on a far higher proportion than was generally understood. This was a matter which deserved the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the coming year. He ventured again also to appeal in the briefest manner on behalf of the important and growing industries which depended on the free access of sugar as a raw material. Those industries had urgent claims on the Chancellor of the Exchequer which he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be in a position to recognise fully and freely in the coming financial year. He had on previous occasions drawn attention to the serious losses that had been incurred by the sugar industries during the past few years. Owing to the changes in the markets, there had been a certain relief from some of the pressure upon those industries arising from the incidence of the sugar duty, aggravated as it had been by the Sugar Convention. At the same time he had been assured by the representatives of the trade recently that the position of many of the most important firms engaged in these industries was such that they deserved and should receive the fullest possible consideration from the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the present time. Having had an opportunity of consulting the leading representatives of those trades during the last few months, and having had their views very carefully laid before him, he wished to draw the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to one point. Supposing the right hon. Gentleman was able to offer relief in the coming financial year, the feeling of the trade was that they should have complete relief from the duty, or that, if that were impossible, then that they should be relieved of half the duty. That relief given in any other form such as the relief given to tea in the present year would be unsatisfactory and would diminish the advantage which they should receive from any reduction of taxation. One other point he would press upon his right hon. friend on behalf and at the special request of these industries, namely, that any remission of duty on sugar should be given if possible at the beginning of the financial year. Though that might impose a certain loss at the moment there would be less disturbance in contracts and in the business arrangements generally if it was given then, than there would be if it was given under other conditions as, for instance, was being done in the case of coal in the present year. The Budget had his heartiest and warmest approval, and while pleading the cause of sugar and regretting that it had not met with some relief in the present year, he recognised to the full the difficulty in which his right hon. friend found himself in the financial position which had been bequeathed to him by the Party opposite. He recognised that his right hon. friend had done splendid work in trying to place our finances on a sound and honest and straightforward basis by the policy which he had adopted in regard to the redemption of debt. He only wished to place on record his regret that sugar had received no relief this year, and to appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to give it his earnest consideration in the coming financial year.

*Mr. SMEATON (Stirlingshire) said he had to express regret that his hon. friend the Member for Preston had sent him a telegram stating that he was ill and asking him to move the Motion which stood upon the Paper in his name†. He moved the Motion with diffidence, as he had no knowledge of the grounds or the arguments which would have been adduced by his hon. friend in favour of it. He was certain, however, that his hon. friend only desired that the Colonies should be invited to consider the partnership between the mother country and themselves in regard to the cost of the defence of the Empire. His hon. friend, he understood, also thought that the alliance so successfully cemented during the late war would be a good ground for inviting the Colonies to consider this matter. Pressure of any sort was, in his mind, entirely out of the question. All he urged was that some arrangement of this kind was one to be considered between friends. He did not know whether the Colonies would set much store on the old stock argument which was used against suggestions of this kind, namely, that as they had no representation the Colonies should not be approached on such a question. But in any case he understood that there was an Imperial Council in contemplation, and if it ever came about he could not see that there would be any impropriety in suggesting to the Colonies that this question might be considered in the light of recent events. Surely the Imperial Government might take the Colonies into their confidence, particularly with regard to any measure they proposed to take for the defence of the outposts of the Empire. Let them contrast what was contributed by India for defence with the insignificant share borne by the self-governing Colonies of Australia and Canada. At the present time India, the poorest possession of the Empire, paid one-fourth of the total cost of the defence of the Empire. Her army had always been ready at hand, equipped for the defence of any part of the British Empire. It had actually taken part in the defence of the Empire in three continents—Asia, Africa, and Europe; in China, in Abyssinia, in Egypt, in Arabia, in Afghanistan and in Thibet. In 1878 the presence of an Indian brigade at Malta went a long way to counteract Russian strategy in the near East. Under these circumstances it could hardly be said that our great dependency of India did not pay a great deal more than the portion due from it for the defence of the Empire of which it forms such an important part. There was one point with regard to the share taken by India of which we had cause to take notice. Great Britain had paid millions of money to acquire its possessions all over the world. It had acquired India without paying a farthing for it. India paid for its own acquisition. After 1834 when the East India Company was dissolved as a trading concern the dividends were paid out of the taxation levied on the people of India. In 1858, when the Crown took over the government of the country, the Indian stock of the company was incorporated as part of the National Debt of India, and interest on the stock was charged on the revenues of India—that was on the people. He begged the House to note that the acquisition of India had yielded a large profit to the Colonies as well as to the United Kingdom. It had not only paid for its own acquisition, but it was now paying in the shape of taxation the interest on the capital of the extinct company. India had not only accomplished this extraordinary financial feat, but was actually now paying a quarter of the total cost of the defensive forces of the Empire. He adduced this argument as one which might fairly be laid before the Colonies at the coming Conference. If the Colonies were approached in a friendly spirit they might be induced to attempt in some measure to redress the disproportionate burden borne by India in connection with the defence of the Empire. He begged to move.

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† The proposed Amendment was as follows:—"To leave out all words after 'that,' and to insert 'it is undesirable to proceed further with a measure imposing heavy burdens on His Majesty's subjects resident in the United Kingdom until steps have been taken to secure from His Majesty's subjects resident in the Colonies an adequate contribution to the cost of defending the Empire.'"

The proposed Amendment was not seconded.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said it seemed to him that the Budget was a most contemptible one. He applied that adjective to it for several well-considered reasons. The Chancellor of the Exchequer found himself with a realised surplus of about £3,000,000, and he had devoted that surplus to the payment of debt.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): The law compelled me to devote that surplus to the payment of debt.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that might be so, but it was really trifling with the actual position, because the realised surplus of last year was practically equivalent to the estimated surplus of the year to come under fairly similar circumstances. It really therefore amounted to the same thing. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer found himself in a position to make a remission of taxation to the extent of £3,000,000, how did he deal with that sum? The surplus was not secured by the right hon. Gentleman and the Party with which he was associated. It was the direct result of the economy, care, and ability of the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor, and he had deliberately set himself to getting rid of it without doing any good to anybody. Having come to that conclusion, it required considerable ingenuity on the part of the right hon. Gentleman to get rid of it without giving the taxpayers of the country any benefit. He might have applied the £3,000,000 boldly to the reduction of the National Debt, but that would have given a direct benefit to the people. He might have done something to cover the loss on the savings bank deposits. That was a difficult subject, and it was time that the Chancellor of the Exchequer tackled it, but anything of that kind would have been too simple. The penny which had been taken off the tea duty could not possibly be of any benefit to the poor people who bought an ounce or two ounces at a time. That was a successful way of dropping £1,000,000 of the surplus. Who got the benefit of it? The middlemen and the merchants, possibly to some extent the shopkeepers, and the co-operative societies to which an hon. Member opposite had referred. It was not many months since the general election, when some hon. Members on the Opposition side were taunted in regard to their attitude on the subject of free food. He was in favour of taking the duty off tea entirely. It was a most unjust and inequitable tax, the poorer classes of the community, who used the cheaper kinds of tea, having to pay 150 per cent. on the article, while the rich, who used the higher priced tea, only paid 20 per cent. The second million, in round numbers, was spent in taking off the export duty on coal. Here again it looked as if the Liberal Government and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had deliberately looked round for some form of taxation, the remission of which could by any chance benefit the foreign taxpayer, but give no relief to the British taxpayer. By this ingenious means the Chancellor of the Exchequer had frittered away another million of money, without giving any benefit to the taxpayers of this country. If the right hon. Gentleman had treated a British ship as part of Great Britain, as indeed it was, and had given such a ship coaling, say, at Marseilles the benefit of the drawback, that would have been a sensible advantage to the British shipowners; but no, a simple expedient of that kind would have been of too much benefit to the common people of this country. An idea of that sort would not satisfy the Liberal Government or the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, who must give this money away to the foreign taxpayer. If there was anything that was more disappointing than another in connection with this Finance Bill it was the fact that sugar was not mentioned in it. Sugar was not only a food of the people, but the raw material of many industries. If the right hon. Gentleman had been living up to the professions he made on the hustings at the general election, he would have done something for the sugar industries of the country. There was another point in the Finance Bill that was very disappointing; nothing had been done in regard to the income-tax which pressed so onerously on those who laboured, whether by hand or brain. He did not think the income-tax was too much for those who drew their incomes from dividends. He was not one to support the idea of a graduated income-tax, but there was an intrinsic difference between incomes that came from investments and incomes derived from the sweat of the brow or the brain. He believed that the latter class should have had some remission. Incomes derived from rents or dividends which came in whether the owner was well or ill, or in this country or abroad, ought to pay more taxation than incomes derived from personal exertion. Let them take the case of a country doctor earning £1,000 a year; if he were laid aside for a month or two by illness his income stopped, and possibly he could never recover it. Such an income was on an entirely different footing from the income which came from investments. He believed that the late Mr. Gladstone said that it would pass the wit of man to draw a distinction between the two classes of income; but it had been done in other countries, and something might have been done in that direction by the Chancellor of the Exchequer which would have been more satisfactory and advantageous to the people of this country than the way in which the second million had been dealt with. The third million was to be applied in the endowment of "Birreligion."

MR. ASQUITH: The hon. Member is totally wrong. Not one halfpenny of the million will be devoted to that purpose.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD, who was received with loud Ministerial cries of "Withdraw," said he was not likely to withdraw what he believed was an absolute fact.

MR. ASQUITH: It is not a fact. The hon. Member has made a mistake, a mistake which is almost inexcusable. The million to which he refers is the million provided in the Education Bill, not one halfpenny of which can possible come as a charge in the present year. That million is expended for purposes totally different. [Renewed MINISTERIAL cries of "Withdraw."]

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he did not for a moment call in question the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he was convinced, and at all events the basis on which he made these observations was, that if it had not been for taking the £1,000,000 off tea and the £1,000,000 off coal, and for the necessity for providing in the near future a £1,000,000 for education, it would have been possible for the Chancellor of the Exchequer in making up his estimates to have given £3,000,000 in remission of taxation. [Renewed MINISTERIAL Cries of "Withdraw."] He would not withdraw; his position was perfectly logical, and he should maintain it. He called this a mean and contemptible Budget, a Budget that had frittered away £3,000,000 sterling upon absolutely unnecessary and stupid items, and in such a way that the common people of this country had received no benefit from it. It was an exhibition, not only of incapacity, but of callous disregard for the poor and for the common taxpayers.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth) said that the Budget was disappointing to many people. A great deal had been expected from it, because the Chancellor of the Exchequer had inherited a more handsome surplus than had been enjoyed for many years. When they considered the unparalleled increase in the exports and imports, that the taxes were at a high rate, although the war was over, and that expenses were being cut down, there was justification for the high hopes that there would be a reduction of taxation, especially upon food. A great deal was said upon that point by Liberal candidates at the general election. In New Zealand they had taken off the whole duty on tea, and yet they were able to find money enough for old-age pensions. They could not have expected that this year the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be able to bring in such a bold scheme as that for old age pensions and for taking the taxes off food, and yet that had been done in the country he had mentioned, where they had taken the whole of the taxes off tea and found the money for old age pensions as well. He mentioned this fact, however, as showing that it was not only possible to take a penny but sixpence off the tax. There was another tax which was referred to very largely at the election. It was a small tax and produced very little. It was placed upon a number of articles which, if they did not form the staff of life, constituted the luxuries of the poor. He alluded to the tax on currants, raisins, figs, French plums, etc. These were the articles which formed practically the pudding delicacies of the labouring classes of this country. It would require less than £500,000 to sweep away the whole of them. This tax pressed to a greater extent upon the working classes than upon anybody else, and nine-tenths of the yield came from the working classes. There was nobody in this country who did not consume some of these articles, and if the tax had been removed the action would have been very much appreciated, and, as he had said, it would have cost only £500,000. The remission of this taxation would in fact have been more appreciated than the penny reduction upon tea. Under the arrangements of the Budget this year the coal tax would produce £1,000,000 instead of £2,000,000, and in his judgment that tax might just as well have been allowed to have produced this year the larger figure, which would have enabled the Chancellor of the Exchequer to take off these obnoxious small taxes upon the luxuries of the poor. He was quite certain that these taxes would not exist much longer and that the first bold Chancellor of the Exchequer would sweep them away. He regretted that it was too late now to do anything more than make the suggestion to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he hoped that the proposal would be borne in mind next year. In place of the taxes which he had suggested should be abolished, he could point to one tax which might take their place, and which would have been popular with ninety-nine out of every 100 people in this country. That was a tax of 25 per cent. on imported motor-cars. He had discussed this subject with dozens of working men who all asked why these motor cars which came into this country from abroad should not pay a reasonable tax. Motor cars were no doubt a luxury and they could be produced in this country. If the tax were imposed the output of cars in this country would increase, and that would afford a large amount of the best paid class of work to the people of this country. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer had the boldness to impose this tax of 25 per cent. on motor cars, there was no doubt that the bulk of them used here would be produced here, and in addition to providing work for Englishmen, it would have afforded an outlet for the investment of capital. The tax would have produced a considerable revenue, and in spite of it, a good many foreign cars would come into the country, because many people would still buy their favourite foreign car which they considered superior to the English car. These foreign motor cars came in to the extent of £2,000,000 worth a year from France alone. He remembered the late President Loubet explaining how extremely profitable this industry was to France, congratulating the French people upon the fact that they had the English market open to them and that they practically had a monopoly in that market. The French motor cars could not go into any other country free of duty, with the result that the French manufacturers had to start branches in order to produce their cars. That of course benefited the industrial classes in those countries. When this question of taxing foreign motor cars was mooted two years ago, he knew as a fact that one of these French manufacturing companies went so far as to purchase land in England, with a view to the erection of a factory so that their cars manufactured here might escape the duty. They owned that land now, and it was only owing to the unfortunate want of boldness on the part of our Chancellors of the Exchequer that the development of this industry, to the benefit of English workmen of all classes, had been prevented.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland) said a large number of Members regretted that there had not been a great reduction in the duty on such commodities as tea and sugar and other necessaries of life. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had made reductions in regard to tea and coal, and they must all recognise the position he was in. Reference had been made to New Zealand's being able to give old age pensions, but New Zealand derived a large revenue in the shape of a land tax. The Chancellor of the Exchequer should devote his attention to taxing the land of this country, and to reducing the taxes on the food of the people. He agreed that it would be better to put a tax on motor cars, both British and foreign. He desired to state most emphatically that he hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not pay any heed to talk about not taxing the incomes of unfortunate individuals with only £1,000 a year, but devote his attention to the land of the country in order that it might pay larger taxes than at present, so that the time might not be far distant when taxes on the food of the people would be entirely abolished and taxes on large incomes on land and on motor cars be substituted.

*CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) in moving as an Amendment to the Motion for the Third Reading:—"That it is undesirable to proceed further with a measure imposing heavy burdens upon His Majesty's subjects resident in the United Kingdom until steps have been taken to secure from foreign nations a substantial contribution to our revenue by the taxation of imported foreign-manufactured articles which can be equally well supplied by home and colonial industries," said that in taking this course he felt strengthened by the remarks which had fallen from the hon. Member below the gangway, because he himself felt, that hitherto the food of the people had been taxed unduly when other sources of revenue were in the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The taxation of this country was confined to too narrow a basis, and the taxes which were imposed in the long run weighed most heavily upon the poorer and working classes. He brought forward his Amendment for the purpose of remedying the evils which had been alluded to by the last speaker. There were many Members like himself who had been returned to Parliament with a free and open mind. They might be laughed at by hon. Members opposite for their opinions on this subject, but they were prepared to wait until the people, as they assuredly would, came round to their way of thinking. It was their duty, meantime, to take every available occasion of laying before the country the remedies for the evils which had been referred to by the hon. Member for Sunderland. He had suggested the taxation of motor cars. He (Captain Craig) had advanced that proposal for some time. He would tax foreign-made motor cars at the port of debarkation here. There would be no need to tax motor cars made by British workmen if they taxed foreign-made cars, and by this means raised sufficient revenue to rid themselves of the taxation on tea and other articles of food. Year after year the Finance Bill had run on the old-fashioned lines of Cobdenism. He knew he differed from many hon. Members on both sides of the House in regard to this matter, but he was convinced that they had here an opportunity of placing taxation where it ought to fall—upon the manufacturer of foreign articles which came to this country and competed unfairly with the home and colonial producer. It was easier for France, Germany, or America, than for Great Britain, to supply cheap goods, because they had all the markets of Great Britain open to them, and we were excluded from the markets of these countries. In the north of Ireland foreigners had striven very hard to destroy industries by placing upon the markets goods which undersold those of Irish manufacture. That was attempted not long ago, and it was only by the pluck and determination of those who were at the head of the various concerns—by underbidding the foreigners—that they were able to keep the workpeople engaged, although it meant a trade loss to themselves. In the north of Ireland many a proprietor of a large concern sooner than turn out thousands of working men and women, continued to employ them, even at a trading loss. Here we had to hand a most valuable source of revenue, and before the House proceeded with the taxation laid down in the Finance Bill it was the duty of everyone who had the welfare of the trade of Great Britain at heart to study carefully how, without injuring any trade in this country, but, on the contrary, benefitting many of our industries, we might place taxation on imported foreign manufactured articles which could be equally well supplied by our home and colonial industries. He coupled the colonies and this country together because he thought it was only fair to do so in order to compensate the colonies, in the event of the Resolution standing in the name of the hon. Member for Preston being carried, for the extra burden they would have to bear. The issue was so clearly defined that he hoped the Labour Party would go into the lobby in support of his Motion, in which he had the support of a large number of Members of the Opposition. Those Members were not now present, but in a division they would be able to convince the country that there was a large section of the House earnest in their endeavours and continuous in their efforts to show that the constant harking back to the old lines of taxation had reached its limit, and that the problem before them was to substitute taxation capable of meeting the large deficit which would occur if they took this 4d. off tea and the duty off which at present burdened many other commodities of the breakfast-table of the working man. On this particular occasion he had been careful to suggest foreign manufactured articles, because he was sure that if we imposed taxation on foreign imports at all it would be more to the general satisfaction that they should be imposed upon articles upon which labour had already been employed. If they could get those particular articles which were necessary in order to keep our large industries going, then we need have no hesitation whatever in importing them, as far as possible, free of all taxation, as at present, thereby securing to the British workmen the maximum of employment in their particular trades. In manufactured articles on which we might raise a large amount of revenue he would include the tinned and preserved meats which came from foreign countries. It would be far better for the working classes that they should get their meat fresh and good as they might do from Ireland. Something like 3,872,881 lbs. of tinned and preserved meats were brought into this country, much of it coming from America, and it would be better to curtail that importation by means of a tariff, giving a small preference to the Colonies. By that means the importation of live cattle would be promoted, and a fillip would be given both to the cattle industry in Ireland and also to the fattening industry in Norfolk and parts of Scotland. He was against taxing the necessaries of life while luxuries such as lace and diamonds were admitted free of duty, a tax on which would not injure the working classes. The working men were the backbone of the country, and although some of them were hesitating on this question he believed that ultimately they would reject the short-sighted fiscal policy which was crippling British industry and fall back upon the course which he proposed. Small as the Tariff Reform Party might be at present, he was perfectly sure that their arguments would in time penetrate the Cobdenism of the benches opposite. The Budget presented to the House by the present Government was meagre and uninteresting, and while it might prove of some benefit to the people living in the large industrial centres it would confer no advantage whatever on the people who resided in the out-of-the way parts of Ireland, where the poor were compelled to buy at the price demanded the goods brought to their doors. The Government proposals were not satisfactory to a large number of his constituents and he would continue to voice the sentiments of tariff reform. He begged to move.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) seconded. The wish had been expressed that in order to cheapen the cost of the food of the people additional taxes might be placed upon the land; but it seemed to him an extraordinary thing to suggest that they were going to cheapen the food of the people by taxing more than at present the land which produced the food. At the present moment the land could not be made to pay, because of the very low price at which the produce had to be sold, and if they further taxed the land, the tax upon which already was intolerable, the cost of production would be enhanced, and the people would be unable to obtain good fresh supplies of suitable food except at an increased price. He trusted that whatever proposal the Chancellor of the Exchequer might make for new taxation he would, at any rate, not propose to destroy the agricultural industry, which was the greatest and the oldest industry of this country. A source of disappointment in this Budget was the tea tax proposal. He very much regretted that the right hon. Gentleman had not seen his way further to reduce the duty on tea, or, at any rate, to alter the method of charging the duty. The right hon. Gentleman might have so arranged it that it should have rested very lightly upon the working classes. The present duty might be well adapted for certain kinds of tea, but it was eminently unsuitable for every description. Therefore it was a disappointing Budget in that the incidence of the taxation was unreasonable. Surely in these days a method could be found of dealing with it in some way so that it should not, as it was at present, be a grievous hardship upon the poor. He was reminded that if an *ad valorem* duty was substituted for this rule of thumb we should have to have a service of experts who would have to decide, in a rough-and-ready way, the respective values of the different qualities of tea. Well, that ought not to be beyond the capacity and the industry of the right hon. Gentleman who presided over the Exchequer. He could not agree with his hon. friend the Member for the West Derby Division of Liverpool, who desired for the purposes of taxation to differentiate between incomes derived from professions and employments and incomes derived from investments. That was, he submitted, a very difficult thing to touch, because it might happen that men might concentrate their minds on something—a patent, for instance—which for years might not be successful, but which eventually brought in a considerable income. When that income was brought in it had to be invested, and he asked whether it was reasonable that that man's income should be taxed at a higher rate than that of a man who earned his income from day to day. He did not agree with the idea of a graduated income-tax. He believed it would be very detrimental to the revenue of this country. He had referred to this subject earlier in the session, and had then pointed out two or three perfectly honest modes that could be adopted, and possibly would be adopted, by those who desired to evade the income-tax. He noticed that neither the newspapers nor the gentlemen responsible for the official reports of the debates of this House took down that particular sentence. He noticed it because it was that particular sentence that was dropped out of an otherwise excellent report. On consideration he thought they were wise to leave it out. But he could assure the House that there were several methods which he believed to be perfectly honest, which could be made use of to evade the payment of a graduated income-tax, and no doubt other methods equally simple and equally honest might be discovered for the same purpose. He thought it was a matter of great regret that they had thrown away, by abolishing the coal tax, a source of considerable revenue. If part of the income derived from that source had been used to equalise the cost of putting coal on the Russian market, where we were severely handicapped notwithstanding the most-favoured-nation clause, it would have been a far more reasonable thing than to have abolished this tax. In Russia one duty was charged on sea-borne coal and another, a much lower duty, on that borne by rail, and if a portion of the income derived from the coal duty had been utilised to equalise that disadvantage that might have justified the Government in foregoing the other portion of it. But seeing that the exports of coal were going steadily up, notwithstanding the imposition of this duty, it seemed to him an egregious thing on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to throw away this fine opportunity of retaining some such source of taxation. If instead of abolishing this duty he had used the revenue derived from it to reduce the cost of the food of the people, then he should have considered it a reasonable thing. Although this was a fairly sound Budget in most respects, he thought his hon. friend the Member for Yarmouth was fully justified in criticising it, as it was in many senses an extremely disappointing one.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'it is undesirable to proceed further with a measure imposing heavy burdens on His Majesty's subjects resident in the United Kingdom until steps have been taken to secure from foreign nations a substantial contribution to our revenue by the taxation of imported foreign manufactured articles which can be equally well supplied by home and Colonial industry'—(*Captain Craig*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. ASQUITH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the Amendment which you have just put from the Chair asks the House to reverse the decision given by the country at the last general election; and if I had framed my Budget on the lines suggested in that Amendment, I should have been flying in the face of a Resolution of this House passed by a vast majority at the beginning of the present session. That is all I have to say.

*MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing) said one was lost in amazement at the number of decisions the country was said by members of the Government and their supporters to have arrived at at the last general election. They had been told of half a dozen issues each of which in turn and as it suited right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite were said to have constituted the voice of the country and overshadowed all others. He could not help recalling the scene in that House as recently as Friday last when a section of the Government supporters reinforced by the Labour Party were taunting the Government with the electoral advantage they received over Chinese slavery which they alleged was so largely responsible for the Government majority and the neglect they had shown of their election pledges; but if it suited the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer to say that this issue of free imports overshadowed all others he had no objection to his saying so. Assuming that this was the great issue before the country at that time, he ventured to think that that would not preclude the House from reconsidering the prudence of forming a Budget on the lines adopted by the right hon. Gentleman on this particular occasion. The merits of the Government having been preached far and wide from the pulpits of political Nonconformity as well as from the hedgerows, great expectations had been formed as to the amelioration of those taxes which bore more hardly on the poor than upon other classes of the community. He differed from some who sat upon that side of the House in that he believed in and supported a graduated income-tax and in graduated duties upon such articles as tea. From a Government of such promise they should have had the fulfilment of an election pledge made to the Anti-Tea Duty League. There would be a good ground for differentiating the duty on tea, but as that was not feasible at the present moment he thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer should have boldly remitted 2d. of the duty even at the expense of the Sinking Fund. The consumers had a right, certainly, to expect a remission of 2d. It was only right that the tea duty should be brought back to 4d. as soon as possible. Certainly the tea duty had oppressed the poor very much, and it ought to have been the first duty of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give relief to those by whose help his Party profited so largely at the general election. Another matter which had been disappointing was the remission of the coal tax. The Chancellor of the Exchequer would have been well advised if he had endeavoured to differentiate between qualities of coal. Whatever might be said as to the prudence of relieving the cheaper kinds of north country coal the tax should have been retained on coal exported from Wales, for we had a monopoly of that class of coal, and it was a commodity which foreign navies could not well afford to be without. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget speech had stated that in the opinion of experts the coal area of Wales was practically exhaustless, or, at all events, that it would last this generation, and probably the next, but the right hon. Gentleman knew from his experience outside this House and in a sphere where he had distinguished himself that of all persons expert witnesses were liable to err, and he would bear in mind the classification of the late Lord Bramwell with regard to that type of witness. The coal tax contributed materially to the revenue, and according to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's own showing, was paid by foreign buyers, since he refrained from giving relief until November, because, as he stated, he had ascertained that forward contracts provided that the foreign purchaser should get the advantage of any remission of duty. Another branch of the subject touched very nearly an industry in which his own constituency was interested—motor-car manufacture. The condition of things abroad was such as to prohibit the export of these manufactures, and in the United States there was a duty of 45 per cent., with a result that one of the firms was about to establish or had established works in Boston.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER reminded the hon. Member that he must not go beyond the questions raised in the Bill or by the Amendment.

*MR. NIELD said he only wished to commend to the attention of the House this fact and the action of Messrs. Thornycroft, of Chiswick. It was a disappointing Budget, as opportunity was not availed of to raise taxes from available sources, and taxation had been taken off which with advantage might have been retained. The poorer classes had not been relieved as they might have been, and as they were led by the Government and its supporters to believe they would be.

LORD CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) said he felt it incumbent upon him to say a few words in praise of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He ventured to differ from his colleagues on that side of the House, and to put forward the reasons why he could not consider the Budget a disappointing measure in every respect. Up to a certain point it had not reached the expectations they entertained, and especially the expectations caused by the lavish promises of the General Election; but it had one redeeming feature, namely, the removal of the coal tax. He was very glad to see with what pleasure that sentiment was received in the House, and he congratulated the Chancellor of the Exchequer very sincerely that he had seen fit to remove the whole of the tax upon exported coal. An export tax was upon an entirely wrong basis; besides, in this case the tax only struck at one portion of the coal trade. The tax imposed by the late Government was put on before the

Commission reported that the supply of coal in this country was adequate to last for two hundred years. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer desired to tax the coal trade the coalowners, who were most loyal and patriotic subjects, would not be in any way backward in meeting the stress of a national emergency. But there were other ways of taxing the coal trade without inflicting a penalty upon only one portion of it. He was very glad to have this opportunity of congratulating the Chancellor of the Exchequer that in this otherwise disappointing Budget he had at any rate taken one step which had given great and general satisfaction.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said he could not help feeling some disappointment at the way in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had thought right to treat this Amendment. It might be that the right hon. Gentleman despised criticism from the Opposition side of the House, and that he thought a single sentence disposed of their arguments. It would have been more courteous if he had concealed his contempt, seeing that the questions raised by the Finance Bill had not been discussed at undue length. There were unquestionably some questions of considerable importance raised by this Amendment.

MR. ASQUITH said they were merely discussing the Amendment to substitute taxation on foreign manufactured goods, and as it appeared to him the House had already pronounced a decision upon this, he did not think it respectful to the House to occupy time with the subject.

LORD R. CECIL said he personally could not support the Amendment, for the reason that a portion of it seemed to indicate a desire, which was clearly conveyed in the speech of the mover, for protection. But another portion of the Amendment suggested that a larger proportion of revenue should be raised by indirect taxation, and manufactured goods were selected as the subject. This was an important question, not having necessarily anything to do with free trade and protection.

MR. ASQUITH: Foreign manufactured goods.

LORD R. CECIL said this had not necessarily anything to do with free trade and protection. It was evident that confusion of thought existed in some minds on the subject, and perhaps he might be allowed to say a few words upon direct and indirect taxation. It had nothing to do with protection, to which he was thoroughly opposed, a fact that was fairly well known. Direct taxation was unpopular undoubtedly. It seemed to him that there was a good deal to be said for what was called indirect taxation if it was levied on the proper subjects. Direct taxation had many advantages. They were certain of what they were doing; but it had the still greater advantage of economy. Every penny raised by direct taxation went straight to the Exchequer; no portion of it went into the hands of manufacturers or their friends. It had a further curious advantage which ought to have been put forward by the great masters of finance, that was its unpopularity. It would encourage economy, and discourage extravagance. He could not himself think that these advantages were unmixed. In the first place, he could conceive of a case where if we were tied solely to direct taxation there might be considerable difficulty in a Government pursuing a definite policy, because of its unpopularity. But a much more serious effect was that if we had only direct taxation to fall back upon, it would encourage the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the day to rely on loans, and not on taxation. That was a matter which must be seriously considered. In the old days when the whole source of power in this country lay on the middle and monied classes, that was a very serious consideration, because it was the electors who paid the taxation. That was no longer the case now; the taxation did not fall wholly on the electors of the country. The income-tax, for example, did not fall directly on the working man. The taxation which did fall directly on him was such as the tea-duty, and the duties on those articles compendiously referred to as the breakfast table. The real truth was that direct taxation in the shape o income-tax fell on the rich and the few, whereas, indirect taxation at present fell on the poor and the many.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER said that the noble Lord's remarks were directed to an abstract discussion of the principles of direct and indirect taxation and did not seem to be sufficiently directed either to the Bill or to the Amendment, which were the only questions now before the House.

LORD R. CECIL said he thought that his remarks were directed to the Amendment, which appeared to him to advocate indirect taxation. He apprehended that he should be in order in making two observations about the income-tax. It was commonly said that the income-tax was direct taxation, but when looked at properly he did not think that the income-tax was a direct tax at all. In his view all taxes ultimately fell upon those who were the least able to bear them. Wherever a tax was imposed, the person who had to pay it tried to recover it from someone else; he shifted the burden on, and it was shifted on again, until at last it fell upon someone who could not shift it further; that was, that it fell upon the poor man, who was the person least able to bear it. It did not really matter to the poor man where the tax was imposed, for in the result he had to pay it. It was the poor who paid indirectly all taxation. He had no doubt that every Member of this House desired to impose taxation so that the rich man should pay, not only his arithmetical proportion, but something more. Some approach might be made to increase the taxation of the rich—he discussed this question quite independently of party politics—and that was by taxing luxuries. That could be done at any rate in theory. It was undoubtedly the case that if it was desired to tax the luxuries of the rich, there was a great deal to be said for taxing them by means of import duties. He did not deny that there were objections to that, but he thought it was a very just and convenient form of taxation, and except for one circumstance it would be a very favourable method of raising money. The real objection to it was that it was tainted with all the opprobrium which attached to the idea of protection. That objection would inevitably be made by certain Members on the Ministerial benches, who had got the subject on their brains, and who did not look at the matter fairly. He quite admitted that an import duty of any kind, however carefully guarded, was a very dangerous instrument, because it might very easily lead to protection and to the evils associated with protection. What he meant was that import duties on the luxuries of the rich, if imposed by those who were protectionists at heart, would produce all the evils of protection, including political evils which were associated with protection. He urged the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Government generally to consider very carefully the question of raising revenue from import duties quite apart from the bogey of protection. That course was not open to the party to which he belonged. If they were to propose anything in the nature of a revenue duty on imports, many people would consider that it was a veiled form of protection, and that it would be a very great evil. But that danger did not attach to the present Chancellor of the Exchequer—at least he hoped not—and he ventured, therefore, to urge him carefully to consider, before he presented another Budget to the House, whether it was quite certain that direct taxation was necessarily the best form of raising revenue, and whether a really genuine broadening of the basis of taxation by imposing it upon subjects and upon people who did to some extent escape their fair share of taxation was not desirable. He said strongly that in the observations he had been making he was not in any way, either directly or indirectly, proposing to return to protection, to which he was as strongly opposed as anyone in this House.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington) said he thought that the right hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer had given a very short answer to the Amendment, and he believed the House would be much interested if the right hon. Gentleman were to say something more in that direction. Of course he knew that a Resolution had been passed this session in regard to the question of free trade and protection, and that therefore they were barred to some extent from dealing with it. He remembered that the right hon. Gentleman had given hon. Members a homily on expenditure when they discussed old-age pensions, the Taff Vale dispute, and Chinese labour, with its great moral issues. With reference to the interesting speech of the noble Lord, it was very difficult to say what protection was or whether this Amendment meant protection. He was not at all a bigoted protectionist, but if a man put up a factory in Germany at the present time he had a market for his goods in that country of 60,000,000 people, while he could send his goods to this country free. But if he erected his works in this country, then he had to pay a toll on these goods if they were sent to Germany. It had been suggested that it would be wise to take off the taxation from the poorest of the poor, and he quite agreed, but it was, in his judgment, quite impossible to prevent the poor man having to pay a tax upon such an article as a glass of beer. What he wanted to urge upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer was that next year he should find some means of widening the basis of taxation by putting a tax upon manufactured goods.

*MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.) said that several Members on the Opposition side of the House had disclaimed the title of protectionist, but for himself he was pleased to be so described. He was a declared tariff reformer, and he was not ashamed of it. They had had an interesting discussion, and not the least interesting part of it had been the light and airy way in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had told them that the Government had a special mandate in regard to protection. In his comparative inexperience as a new Member of the House, nothing had been more entertaining to him personally than the way in which different members of the front Government Bench had told them of the various mandates received during the general election. He had no doubt that the election showed that the country was not yet ripe for fiscal reform, so eloquently advocated by the leaders on the Opposition side of the House. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Which?"] He was happy to think that hon. Members on that side had two leaders of outstanding eminence and brilliancy. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Name."] Those who described themselves as tariff reformers were not ashamed to say that they had been cheered and encouraged by the way in which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had advocated tariff reform; and if the leader of the Party, of whom they were so proud, had had a free hand to deal with the question prior to the election, he did not at all doubt that there would not have been the slightest misunderstanding as to the position of the two right hon. Gentlemen. Speaking for himself, he had the utmost pleasure in serving under either of them.

*MR. SPEAKER said these domestic questions did not seem to be in order.

MR. BARRIE apologised. Speaking on the question before the House, he desired to say that he thought that if Members of the House would, as occasion offered, take a walk round the large, important sea-ports, and see the vast quantity of manufactured goods which were being brought into the country without the slightest taxation, if they would also carefully consider the number of our manufactures that had been crushed out of existence by these imports, there would be no trouble whatever in their rapidly coming to the conclusion that the lines of the Amendment were correct, and that if they were not accepted now they must be accepted in the near future. He submitted that a moderate import duty on the vast quantity of imported goods which came into this country would tend greatly to increase employment in this country, and that the burden of the increased duty would fall on the classes which were well able to bear it. The working classes would receive a benefit which at present they did not seem to desire to possess. He was sure that the more the question was discussed the more quickly the time would come when this country would find it desirable to impose a duty upon manufactured goods.

*MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said he wished to challenge the statement made by the noble Lord that it was possible to put on an import duty without its being protective. This matter affected their Lancashire trade very seriously and the noble Lord's statement ought not to pass unchallenged. It was a serious matter for the Lancashire cotton trade, because they had 99·2 per cent. of the whole of the Indian import trade, and there was on their goods now an import duty of 5 per cent., but, as all Governments ever since that question was first raised had agreed, if they placed a 5 per cent. duty on cotton without a countervailing duty it would be a protective duty.

LORD R. CECIL said he did not challenge the hon. Member's statement as applied to cotton. Undoubtedly an import duty must have a protective effect. What he wanted to indicate was that by carefully selecting these imports they could put on a duty which would not amount to protection as ordinarily understood.

*MR. SHACKLETON agreed. With regard to what the hon. Member for North Londonderry had said he hoped to go to a division on the Amendment, to prove that trade unionists had not altered the opinion they had expressed on this subject earlier in the session. Trade unionists had not changed their opinions as to the effect this policy would have on the workers. All sections of labour were going to vote against the Amendment, and it would require better arguments than they had heard that night to induce them to alter their opinion on this subject.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said he was not afraid to be called a protectionist by anyone in the House. He did not advocate a return to the "Hungry forties," but he was a tariff reformer and was quite ready to face the word protectionist. It seemed to him that everyone of them, whatever they might be, wished to protect their own particular interests, and that being so why should they be selfish and refuse a measure of protection to the interests of others. It was for that reason he advocated what was wrongly called by hon. Members opposite protection. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his very short remarks to-night, had again referred to the mandate the Government had received. They had heard enough about the mandates of this election. The word "mandate" had been applied to everything that the Government had done, and he thought the hon. Member for Dulwich had summed up the matter pretty accurately when he said a few evenings ago that the only reason for the result of the election was the fact that the country was tired of the Tory Party and wanted a change. As to the tax on tea, it was quite true that the Tory Party increased it. The reason for that was that they were bound to an absurdly narrow basis of taxation. When money was required they had to put on unwarrantable taxes within that basis, and hence the increase in the tea duty. The Resolution now before the House proposed to extend that basis of taxation, and for that reason it had his most hearty support. The means they proposed was that there should be an import duty imposed on foreign manufactured goods coming to this country. No one could deny that the result of our present system had been that manufactures which used to flourish in this country had now gone abroad; that they employed foreign labour where they used to employ British labour, that they went abroad in order to obtain two markets instead of one, because, as was well known, the larger the production, the cheaper the cost of production. As an example of foreign manufactures, let them take the case of the motor industry. French motor cars came to this country in very large quantities, yet it was a well-known fact that cars of the same build could be produced in this country at the same price as in France, the costs of production being so close as to differ to the extent of only a few shillings. Whilst all these French cars were allowed to come into this country we could not send British cars into France without paying a duty. He wanted to show hon. Gentlemen opposite how an import duty on foreign motor cars must necessarily fall not upon the English purchaser, but upon the foreign producer. Let them take, for example, two exactly similar motor-cars, one made in England and one in France, the cost of production of each being £500. If 10 per cent. duty were put upon the French motor car coming into this country what would happen? The French manufacturer would say to himself, "Can I charge that duty on the English market?" Of course he could not. If he charged £550 for the car in the English market nobody would be foolish enough to buy it. The similar car made in England and offered at £500 would be bought. The French manufacturer, therefore, had to do one of two things; he would either have to pay the duty himself and continue to sell his car in London at the old price of £500, in which case the British revenue would benefit to the extent of £50, or else he would conclude that it was not worth his while to send the car to England. In the latter case the result would be that an extra car would be made by

British labour. In either case the British purchaser would not have to pay a single penny more than he did at present. What was true of the motor car was true of hundreds of other articles. There was an industry which once thrived in the Southern counties and was now dead, but which would revive again in this country if a small duty were imposed on the foreign manufactured article. He referred to the industry of coopers' hoops. They might not appeal to hon. Gentlemen, but they appealed very much in Kent and Sussex, where employment used to be found in the industry during winter months for thousands of labourers who had other employment in summer. He would like to point out to supporters of the Government who talked a great deal about sending the labourer back to the land that it was no use sending him back there unless by some such means as this they found employment for him in the winter. He should be strongly opposed to an import duty on anything coming under the head of raw material. The duties which he hoped to see imposed—and some day they would be imposed—should be confined strictly to manufactured articles and produce, which could be made or produced at home. At present this country levied duties upon many imported necessaries of life which we could not produce ourselves, and it was an admitted fact that in such cases the British consumer necessarily paid the bulk of the duty. Whatever was the incidence of taxation on foreign manufactured articles which might be produced in this country, and whosever shoulders it fell upon, it could not be worse than at the present time. Surely it was worth a trial. By taxing luxuries which came from abroad, the incidence of indirect taxation might be diverted so as to fall on the shoulders of the very rich, But what he hoped still more to see was the foreigner taxed. The foreigner made us contribute a good deal to his revenue, and he should like to make him pay a certain amount to ours. They were justified in urging the House to try this change. It could not make matters worse. Let them tax the rich if they liked, and the foreigner if they could, but for Heaven's sake let them adopt some system by which they might leave off taxing the poor.

Question put.

The sense of the House having been taken by Mr. SPEAKER in the usual way by the responses "Aye" and "No," a division was challenged. When Members were proceeding to the division lobbies,

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: I wish to ask a question on a point of order. My point of order is this. Is it competent for a number of the Members of this House to force a division by calling "No" when they intend to vote "Aye"? When the proposer and the seconder of an Amendment, and those who have supported them, have no desire to take a division and have not called "No," is it competent to create an artificial division by other parties calling "No" and then voting "Aye"? [Cries of "Name."]

*MR. SPEAKER: When an hon Member says "No" I presume he mean. to vote "No"; and if I had any power to compel him to vote "No" I should do so. But I have no power to compel an hon. Member to vote in the way for which he lifts his voice.

MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan): May I ask whether Members who do not desire to vote are privileged to sit still?

*MR. SPEAKER: No hon. Member is compelled to vote if he does not want to.

The division was then taken, but before the figures were announced,

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: I find on page 343 of Erskine May's "Law and Usage of Parliament" that when Members who call "No" vote in the "Aye" division lobby, the proper course is to have their names struck out of the list of "Ayes" and recorded the other way. Those who called "No" include practically the whole of the hon. Members below the gangway, and in this division they voted "Aye." I very respectfully submit that the point I took when this unparliamentary and exceedingly inconvenient course was taken is perfectly in order, and that the remedy now lies with you, Sir, to have these votes recorded the other way.

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member will name any Member of this House who said "No" and yet went into the "Aye" lobby his name shall be struck out of the division list.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: I can name two, Sir.

The Tellers reported the numbers, Ayes, 258; Noes, 2.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: The way in which this position ought to be dealt with—[Cries of "Order, order!"]

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member will name any hon. Member of this House who said "No" and yet went into the "Aye" lobby his name shall be struck out of the division List.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: I am only able to name two, the hon. Member for the Clitheroe Division and the hon. Member for Halifax.

*MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member for Clitheroe accept the statement of the hon. Member?

*MR. SHACKLETON: Yes. Have I the right to give an explanation?

*MR. SPEAKER: Yes, certainly.

*MR. SHACKLETON: It is not the first time this has occurred in this House. In my opinion, of the two hours we have spent on this Motion, an hour and a half has been deliberately wasted. I and my friends sitting beside me are anxious to get certain important measures affecting labour, and every minute wasted means less chance for us.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: Then why waste time on a division?

*MR. SHACKETON: I have done this as a protest against Motions being moved, speeches made and time wasted, and then Members refusing to take the opinion of the House of Commons upon Motions.

*MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member for Halifax accept the statement of the hon. Member for the West Derby Division?

MR. PARKER (Halifax): No. I was so much amused and was laughing so much at the time when Members were shouting that I never shouted at all.

*MR. SPEAKER: The name of the hon. Member for Clitheroe will be struck out of the division list and his name will be added to the "Noes."

MR. PARKER: I think I have a right to claim that the hon. Member for the West Derby Division should withdraw the statement he made with reference to me.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member will I am sure at once accept the statement of the hon. Member for Halifax.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: At once, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER directed Mr. SHACKLETON'S Vote to be recorded with the Noes:—Ayes, 257; Noes, 3. (Division List No. 121.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Cross, Alexander
Dalziel, James Henry

Mr. Lowther.

Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell, (Bristol S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dilke, Rt .Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. (Brampton)
Hall, Frederick
Hammond, John
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lever, A. Levy(Essex, Harwich
Levy ,Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd,George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk Bg'hs
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major W.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert. H
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G,
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Soares, Ernest J.
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Woodhouse, SirJT.(Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley, and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Courthope, G. Loyd
Hills, J. W.
Shackleton, David James

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Craig and Mr. Carlile.

Original Question again proposed.

Sir WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith) said he wanted to call the attention of the House to what he considered a serious subject in connection with the Bill, and to make an appeal on behalf of the unfortunate taxpayers. The noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone had said the income-tax only affected a few. He denied that; it affected a very large class. The smaller class of income-tax-payers were hardly hit in the present circumstances. They had not only to pay income-tax, but indirect taxation on such articles as tea and sugar. He therefore hoped to draw from the Chancellor of the Exchequer some expression of sympathy for that class. He thought that the exemption should be increased from £160 to £240. He complained that the officials of the Income-Tax Department, although sometimes sympathetic, were in other cases too inquisitorial. There ought to be further reductions in regard to particular trades. He had had a large correspondence on that subject, and he found that in many cases the income-tax authorities did not make proper allowances. In all the West-end drapery establishments the ladies who served had to wear black silk dresses. That was a very serious matter. They wore out two of these dresses in the course of the year, and they cost from £12 to £15, and were of no use for any other purpose. He contended that that was one of the examples where the Chancellor of the Exchequer ought to make some allowance.

Mr. ASQUITH confessed that for himself he could not listen to the speech of the hon. Gentleman without considerable emotion. The hon. Member had invited him to enter on a voyage of adventure, but he could assure the hon. Gentleman in all seriousness that the incidence and collection of income-tax were points to which he was giving earnest consideration. He was by no means satisfied that the present system was an ideal one. It was his sincere desire to put the tax on a more equitable foundation, and to make its collection more simple and easy to the tax-payers as well as to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would be content with that assurance and that the House would now agree to the Third Reading.

Mr. MEYSEY-THOMPSON (Staffordshire, Handsworth) said it was with great regret that he criticised the Budget, and on the last occasion when he rose to do so, although he endeavoured to be polite to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Gentleman immediately moved the closure. When, however, he did have an opportunity of speaking he had stated that in his opinion the Budget was a very bad one and was objectionable in every way. He stated that he admired the excellent speech made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the right hon. Gentleman certainly did make an excellent beginning although he fell off towards the end. At one time he thought the Budget was better than he had considered it to be at first, but, having heard the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, he was now of opinion that it was a worse Budget than he originally thought. When the Government came in they claimed that they were going to be a very efficient Government and save a large amount of expenditure. They made very excellent proposals, all of which were very difficult to carry out. What was the result? They had abandoned several sources of revenue; they had taken away burdens from the foreigner and put further burdens upon the people of this country. There was the question of tobacco. The Financial Secretary recently made a most eloquent and able speech on the subject, in which he absolutely proved that the Opposition were in the right and made out an excellent case against himself. The serious question in regard to the tobacco duty was that under the tax as it originally existed there was a growing industry in the treatment of the leaf in this country. Not only had that growing industry been lost, but the right hon. Gentleman had decreased our revenue. In this way he had thrown upon the country a large number of people who would have to be supported out of the rates. The alteration of the duty on tobacco did not, as far as he could see, benefit the consumer in the least. If it benefitted anybody it was the wholesale tobacco manufacturer. The alteration in the duty on tea also did not benefit the consumer, but only the wholesale tea dealer, while the abolition of the coal duty would result in the loss of a large source of revenue and would benefit not the consumers but the coal proprietors. He thought that he had established his claim that this was a thoroughly bad Budget.

MR. DAVID MACIVER (Liverpool, Kirkdale) said that he also very much disliked this Budget and he did not wish to see the Third Reading of the Bill which embodied it passed without some protest from himself as a business man. He found nothing in the Budget of which he could approve, except the proposal to apply £500,000 to the reduction of debt. But even in that case the sum was insignificant. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had a large surplus, and in his judgment, speaking as a man of business, the right hon. Gentleman had thrown that surplus away. Let them take, for instance, the penny reduction on tea. Everybody knew that this reduction would never benefit the consumer although it might benefit the wholesale dealer. In regard to the coal duty the right hon. Gentleman had thrown away a valuable source of revenue in response to political clamour. He would say, however, that he should have been sorry to see the coal duty maintained in the form in which it stood, though he was still more sorry to see it swept away entirely. He was speaking of a subject of which he knew something, because he spoke not only as a shipowner but as the representative of a great railway company. If it were true that the coal duty was injuring the trade of South Wales the fact would in some way have come home to himself and other directors of the great railway company with which he was connected. It had not come home in any way to him as a railway director, nor had it come home to those with whom he was associated. It had not come home to him at all except in its political aspect. The South Wales coal industry was a monopoly, and nobody bought the class of coal which came from South Wales unless they were obliged to. Therefore, in the case of the South Wales coal the duty was paid by the foreigner and not by the people of this country. The coal duty was put on by one free trade Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, and maintained and argued in favour of by another free trade Chancellor of the Exchequer, the late Mr. Ritchie. In his judgment the duty should have been confined to South Wales coal, which was a speciality of this country. A tax upon South Wales coal did not matter, but he had always objected to the duty being imposed upon Scottish and other coal of a cheaper quality, where it did matter. His objection to the tax was that it was applied in entire disregard of the quality of the coal. Therefore, in regard to the coal in the sale of which we came into competition with the foreigner, the coal producer of this country suffered. The result was also that the shipowners suffered. Moreover the British shipowner if he bought coal abroad had to pay this shilling a ton, and he thought that in his case the duty should have been returned to him. Instead of putting the coal duty upon reasonable lines the Chancellor of the Exchequer had yielded to the clamour to which he had alluded and had swept it away altogether, thus robbing the country of a valuable source of revenue. Coming to the question of the income-tax, it was not in the power of a private Member to move an increase of that tax. Had it been he should have moved a proposal of that sort. It was open to him, however, to argue that there should be an increase in the tax upon income derived from foreign investments in industries which competed with the industries of this country. The sum collected upon income from foreign investments had doubled in the last ten years. The investments had increased from £32,000,000 to £60,000,000. What did that point to? He looked across the House and he recalled to mind three conspicuous ornaments of the Liberal Party. There was one hon. Member in particular, who was a great advocate of the graduation of the income-tax. He himself was in favour of the graduation of the income-tax, if it could be done, but there were forms of graduation and the best form had to be considered. The hon. Gentleman he was alluding to was a worthy and excellent man in every way. He liked him and had not the smallest objection to him in any way except in regard to his politics and his views on certain subjects relating to taxation. That hon. Gentleman had one manufactory in this country, but he was interested in nine manufactories abroad which were engaged in competing with the industries of this country. Therefore it appeared that the hon. Gentleman was a strong free trader in this country but a strong protectionist in other countries. Why? Because under a system of protection his competitors in trade could not send their soap into other countries. Therefore protection suited him down to the ground abroad, and he supposed free trade suited him here. Another hon. Member to whom he alluded was the hon. Member for Northwich, who was very much in the same position. Everybody liked him, and he was a worthy and excellent man. He also was a great free trader in this country, but a great protectionist abroad. Another hon. Member whom he had in his mind was the hon. Member for Paisley, whose name was a household word. Everybody who knew anything about the hon. Member liked him. There was nothing to be said against him. He also enjoyed protection in other countries while he was a strong free trader here. [MINISTERIAL cries of "question."] He was talking to the question, although he was aware that Ministerialists did not like what he said. It was true, however. He did not wish to do these hon. Gentlemen any injustice, but he should like to see the income-tax so graduated that they would have to pay an increased sum upon the profits which they made on their investments abroad. He thought those who made profits abroad ought to pay a larger share of the income-tax than those who made profits at home. There were a great many large manufacturers of furniture and other articles abroad, whose products came into competition with the products of our manufacturers and who made large profits. These firms paid income-tax probably only in respect to the salary of an agent in London, while the British manufacturer had to pay income-tax upon every profit that he made. In this way the foreigner escaped income-tax which his English rival had to pay. It had come to his knowledge that there was a good deal of money invested by foreigners in English railways. Every English investor in any industrial concern which was fortunate enough to make a profit had his income-tax collected at the source unless he could show that it was an overcharge, when he could get it back, but if he was a gentleman residing in Paris, the income-tax authorities did not take into account the fact as to whether he was a rich or a poor man. No matter how rich that man might be, he got his income free of income-tax. That put the British subject in a very unfair position as against the foreigner. This was only one of the matters which showed the unfair incidence of the income-tax. The income-tax was not only a burden upon the taxpayer, but it was a burden upon all industries in this country which were fortunate enough to pay. It was a tax which did mischief all round. He congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on the Budget which he had brought in, and would only say, in conclusion, that in each of the five Parliaments in which he had sat he had always urged the view that an income-tax should be differently charged in respect of the income of a man who earned his daily bread from his own labour and the man whose income was derived from investments. It was a cruel thing that the doctor, the barrister, or the schoolmaster should have a tax put upon his means of livelihood, and that when he died and left money behind him his family should be robbed for the payment of income-tax.

Question put and agreed to. Bill read the third time, and passed.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

RIGHTS OF WAY BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

Adjourned at twenty-seven minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 14th June, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill.—Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Bacup Corporation Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 8th and 29th of May last discharged, and Bill committed.

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed.

Ascot District Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting Bill).—Read 2ª, and committed.

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Dover Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Lancashire Electric Power Bill; Metropolitan Water Board Bill; St. Pancras Electricity Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill. Brought from the Commons, read 1ª, and referred to the Examiners.

Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill; Metropolitan District Railway Bill; Kettering Water Bill; Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill; North West London Railway Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill; Bristol Corporation Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª, and referred to the Examiners.

Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Bill [H.L.]; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [H.L.]; South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [H.L.]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Mersey Railway Bill [H.L.]; North Sussex Gas and Water Bill [H.L.]; Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

New Mills Urban District Council Bill; North East Lincolnshire Water Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]. Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]. Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

Tramway Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.] Committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

Ritz Hotel Bill [H.L.]. Committed.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Amendment reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. (No. 119); Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. (No. 120); Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill. (No. 121); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. (No. 122)—Brought from the Commons, read 1ª, to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill.—Brought from the Commons. Read 1ª; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2ª (The Lord Hamilton of Dalzell), and reported from the Committee. (No. 123.)

GREAT NORTH OF SCOTLAND RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 3ª.—(*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell*).

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, I believe my Amendment has precedence of that standing on the Paper in the name of my noble friend Lord Kinnaird, because it is to amend the clause which the noble Lord proposes to expunge. This is a Bill which comes to your Lordships' House under the Scottish Procedure Act of 1899. Up to the Third Reading your Lordships have had nothing to do with the Bill, but I venture to suggest that at this stage your Lordships' House has and ought to exercise complete jurisdiction over it, and the Third Reading ought not to be considered merely a formal matter.

I quite understand that your Lordships might be inclined to defer to Scottish opinion, and that the Bill having passed in Scotland in this particular form your Lordships might be disinclined to amend it. I fully admit, therefore, that the onus lies upon me to show good reason why it should be amended. It cannot be said that Scottish opinion in this matter is at all unanimous inasmuch as the Corporation of Glasgow are very much against the particular clause in question; indeed, they would greatly prefer that Lord Kinnaird's Amendment should pass than that the one standing in my name should be adopted. Whether your Lordships accept my Amendment or not, an opportunity will be given of voting for the omission of the whole clause; but I think it is quite possible that some of your Lordships may think that the Amendment of my noble friend is too drastic and that a middle course ought to be pursued.

The question at issue in this Bill is as to the terms on which a railway company ought to be allowed to exercise powers over road traffic, either in connection with their railway or not in connection with their railway. Clause 3 of the schedule, which I propose to amend, appears to me in its present form to be absolutely inadmissible, being against all precedent. In 1899 the first case arose of a railway company being allowed to exercise these powers over road traffic, and there have been some eight or nine cases since. Quite recently, in the case of the Mersey Railway Company, a clause of this kind was struck out altogether.† The first precedent for the insertion of such a clause was in the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Act, 1899.

There have, as I have said, been altogether ten instances of a clause of this description being inserted, but it has always been put in subject to two principles being observed. The first principle is that this road traffic must be in connection with the railway, or in connection with some extension of the railway; and the second is that the road traffic must not be allowed to compete with the traffic facilities afforded by a local authority. And where it is at all necessary, there has always been a further clause providing that the local authority shall have some sort of veto over the road traffic; and in one recent case—that of the North Eastern Railway Act, 1905—there is a stringent provision to the effect that the local authority may from time to time prescribe the route for this road traffic.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 433, *et seq.*

As time has gone on it would seem that the conditions imposed upon railway companies seeking powers over road traffic have become more and more stringent. The last instance before the Mersey case was that of the Brighton railway. In the Brighton Railway Act, in order, I suppose, to make it perfectly certain that the road traffic was used *bona fide* for the purposes of the railway, a provision was inserted that the company might convey by road passengers, passengers' luggage, luggage, parcels, and merchandise, who or which had been, or were to be conveyed over some part of the railways owned, worked, or used by the company. That provision was, no doubt, a stringent one, but it has been very recently passed by the House of Commons. Clause 3 in the schedule of the Great North of Scotland Railway Order Confirmation Bill now before your Lordships' House offends against both of the principles I have referred to.

As regards the safeguard to local authorities, there is a provision in the Bill safeguarding the Corporation of Aberdeen, but that is the only local authority which is safeguarded. It is clear that that is not an efficient safeguard inasmuch as the Bill proposes to give the company powers to run road traffic anywhere they like, quite irrespective of whether it is in connection with their railway or any station on their railway. It appears to me that such a provision is absolutely contrary to all precedent. Clause 3 as it stands provides that—

"The company may provide, own, work, and use, in connection with or in extension of their railway system or otherwise—

that is to say, they may use it not in extension of their railway system—

"in any district to which their said system affords access or in which they may find it expedient to afford improved means of communication," etc.

Under that very wide power it is perfectly clear that the company might set up road traffic anywhere in Scotland they liked, and the Corporation of Glasgow suggest that they might even compete with the excellent system of tramways now set up in Glasgow. I do not know whether that is likely to be the case, but at all events this power is a very much bigger power than has hitherto been granted to a railway company, and if it is to be given at all I suggest that it should be on the same terms as in the case of the Brighton Railway. My Amendment follows very closely the terms of the Amendment in the Brighton Bill, and I hope your Lordships will accept it.

Amendment moved—

"In the Schedule, in Clause 3, page 3, line 30, to leave out from the beginning of the clause to the word 'provided' on line 4, page 4, and to insert the words 'the company may provide own work and use to or from any railway station depot or hotel owned, leased, or worked by the company road vehicles to be drawn or moved by animal, electrical, or other mechanical power and may therein convey passengers, passengers' luggage, luggage, parcels, and merchandise, who or which have been or are to be conveyed over some part of the railways owned, worked, or used by the company, and may make and recover such charges as they think fit in respect of such conveyance and may enter into contracts or agreements with any company or person for the supply or working of any such vehicles."—(*Lord Monkswell.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My Lords, I hope the House will not be led away by the arguments to which we have just listened. The Amendment of the noble Lord who has just sat down is narrower in its scope than that to be moved by the noble Lord below the gangway (Lord Kinnaird), and I shall carefully avoid, in endeavouring to answer the noble Lord opposite, trenching upon the arguments which will have to be used in regard to the larger question. But, briefly put, the noble Lord below the gangway intends to delete altogether from this Bill the power to run omnibuses or motor cars, while the noble Lord opposite only proposes to amend the power to such an extent as to prevent the railway company from carrying in their road vehicles traffic which does not originate on the railway or go on to the railway after it has originated in the motor cars. I do not think that that proposal will bear examination for a moment.

If the railway company only desired to deal with traffic originating on the railway or going to the railway, there would be no occasion to have this power at all, because there is no limit to the distance of cartage or delivery which a railway company may undertake. But, looking at the proposal on the merits, if you are going, as the noble Lord proposes, to give power to a railway company to run omnibuses and motor cars for the continuation of traffic, is there any sense in preventing those vehicles picking up and setting down traffic by the way?

The case for the power is this. The Great North of Scotland Railway serves, generally speaking, poor, agricultural, outlying districts. Railway companies are constantly charged with not giving proper facilities for the picking up and delivery of agricultural produce and other articles of that kind. This is an effort on the part of the Great North of Scotland Railway Company to meet a real public demand. It may be said that light railways could be laid down, but in many of these cases there is not traffic sufficient for a light railway. This is a cheaper way of serving the outlying districts. The noble Lord, in moving his Amendment, said there were no precedents. Motor vehicles are a comparatively recent invention, and it is because of these inventions that you have from time to time to make new precedents. There is no danger in this precedent. It is on the lines of what has been done before, and I hope and believe that the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees will say that, on the whole, it is a safe step for us to take.

The noble Lord who moved this Amendment seemed to hold some brief for the municipality of Glasgow. I cannot see what Glasgow has to do with this case. Glasgow is, and rightly, a tramway owner in its own district, though some of your Lordships have doubts whether municipal trading and tram-owning has not gone too far already. I do not raise that question. But it is a new departure if a municipality which has gone in for this trading is to set its face against legitimate opposition and legitimate trading even in another part of the country.

I submit that you must judge each case on its merits. If this were in the suburbs of some large town there might be a case against it. Why, because some large municipal corporation have started tramways to serve their own district, are they to come in the way of a legitimate extension of facilities to country districts? It is a strong point in my favour that there is absolutely no local opposition to this proposal. The Corporation of Aberdeen, as the noble Lord fairly said, have been met and have agreed with the promoters to this proposal. There may be other municipalities in the district. Any of them might have appeared, if they had chosen, at the preliminary inquiry. I am informed that none of them did appear. The inquiry was held at Aberdeen under the provisions of the Scottish Private Bill Procedure Act. Two Members of your Lordships' House were concerned in that inquiry, and the decision of the tribunal was unanimous.

I submit that it would be unfair, I might almost say unjust, at this stage of the Bill, and after it has passed the other House, to make an alteration of this kind. The noble Lord seems to suggest that under the clause as it at present stands the Great North of Scotland Railway Bill might run motor vehicles all over Scotland and England. Now, is that a sane suggestion? Is it likely that this railway company will be so foolish as to do any such thing? I venture to think that their shareholders would soon look after them if they made any such proposal. I contend that the noble Lord opposite has not made out a shadow of a case for the proposal he has put before us, and I trust your Lordships will reject the Amendment.

*THE MARQUESS OF HUNTLY: My Lords, I should like to add my testimony in favour of the provision in the Bill as it stands. The effect of the Amendment would be this: that the company might run motor vehicles to and from the stations on their system, but that if a wretched passenger wished to be taken up for a short distance along the route he would not be allowed to avail himself of this facility unless he could give an assurance that he would travel on the railway afterwards or had come from the railway, and no convenience in the carriage of goods would be given to the public along this route. Anything more ridiculous it would be impossible to imagine. This is a Bill which is unanimously desired by the county of Aberdeen and by the Great North of Scotland Railway Company, who serve that district. It is not opposed by the Corporation of Aberdeen, and it has received strong support throughout the district. The proposal of the railway company to run these motor 'buses will be of the very greatest advantage to the district, and I hope at this late stage of the Bill your Lordships will not accept the noble Lord's Amendment.

*LORD LEITH OF FYVIE: My Lords, knowing the district concerned, I can assure your Lordships that this scheme is much required. It is, indeed, a necessity in the interests of the farmers and the inhabitants of the district generally. It is to motor traction that farmers have to look for the more economical handling of agricultural produce. I can assure your Lordships that unless we give the powers asked for in the Bill the farmers and others concerned will feel that we did not consider their interests and the equities of the case. Those mostly interested are the people along the proposed route, and I venture to think that if the proposal in the Bill is agreed to and motor vehicles are allowed to run, the necessity for their existence will be very quickly demonstrated.

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL: My Lords, the Provisional Order which this Bill seeks to confirm was made last year by Lord Linlithgow, the then Secretary for Scotland. There was not time last year to bring in this Bill, and it was therefore introduced into the House of Commons this Session. It has passed that House without Amendment, and is now before your Lordships on Third Reading. The only opposition to the Bill, so far as we have heard, is in respect of the clause now under discussion, and in a similar case to this recently before the House of Commons the matter was left to the House. His Majesty's Government are desirous that in this case a similar course should be followed, and have every confidence in leaving the matter in your Lordships' hands.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of ONSLOW): My Lords, I hesitate to trouble your Lordships on this subject, but after the speech of the noble Lord in charge of the Bill, and after the appeal of my noble friend behind me, your Lordships may expect me to say a few words. This Bill originated in the office of the Secretary for Scotland, and I had thought that we should have from the noble Lord some expression of opinion either for or against the Amendment moved by my noble friend. But we are not altogether unprepared to hear that in this case, as in others, the Government desire to leave the matter to the judgment of the House. If the Secretary of State did not take objection to it in the House of Commons I should have thought that the Bill would have been supported in the condition in which it came up from the other House.

I confess I was surprised when I heard from the noble Lord opposite that he opposed the Bill in the interests of the Corporation of Glasgow. As far as I know, the nearest point on the Great North of Scotland Railway is Aberdeen or Boat of Garten, both of which are over 100 miles from Glasgow. What the interest of Glasgow can be I fail to understand. The Corporation of Aberdeen have secured the insertion of a clause in the Bill which has been settled to their satisfaction, and which will protect that Corporation from any undue competition with the tramway business they carry on.

In my opinion Bills of this kind, dealing as they do with a somewhat novel mode of traction, ought in every case to be decided on their merits. The merits have been gone into, and there has been no objection raised. I see no reason for refusing to allow the Great North of Scotland Railway Company, which carries on its business in sparsely populated areas, to do something to encourage the agricultural interests of those districts. I do not see that there are any grounds to justify your Lordships interfering at this late stage of the Bill and inserting an Amendment which would necessitate its being sent back to the House of Commons. If it were a private Bill under my charge I should certainly urge your Lordships to consider that it had been decided on its merits, and not accept any Amendment on the Third Reading.

Lord MONKSWELL: My Lords, after the speech of the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees I do not desire to press my Amendment to a division, as it apparently receives no support. I shall be quite content to leave the matter in the hands of the House as between the Amendment of the noble Lord opposite and the Bill as it stands.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

***Lord KINNAIRD:** My Lords, I beg to move the omission of Clause 3 in the Schedule. I understand that this is the only clause in the Bill on which there is any difference of opinion. I fully admit that the Third Reading stage is not an advantageous time to raise this matter or to impede a Bill which is evidently wanted, but I thought the general question was of sufficient importance to justify the step I am taking, especially in view of the action taken in the other House since this Bill was first introduced. I understand, too, that the omnibus clause with reference to the Glasgow and South Western Railway Order was withdrawn at the inquiry held in Glasgow.

As to the general question of motor traffic, I do not think your Lordships can have any doubt that before long, both in regard to towns and the country, some limit will have to be fixed as to speed and as to the damage which may be done by these, to many of us, instruments of torture which go about at all hours of the day and night making the roads and streets impassible and depreciating the value of property. In consequence of these heavy traction engines miles and miles of road around Aberdeen have been absolutely ruined, and it has been rendered extremely difficult for tourist traffic to go through many of the narrow roads. The companies sending out these great vehicles pay no rates for the roads, and I understand that if this clause passes there is no limit to any damage which may be done by these vehicles.

I know districts where whole rows of houses have been depreciated to the extent of 50, 60, and 70 per cent., and many of them are unoccupied, owing to the nuisance caused by the motor traction vehicles which are becoming the popular form of conveying goods. There are indications even in London that this is a question which will have to be seriously considered by Parliament. It has been thought that it would not be well to allow this clause to go through in its present wide form, and that the House of Commons has done well in putting a stop to the increasing tendency on the part of the great railway companies to run these motor vehicles. I submit the Amendment standing in my name, but if the feeling against it is anything like that shown to the Amendment of my noble friend Lord Monkswell I shall not press it.

Amendment moved—

"In the Schedule, to leave out Clause 3."—(*Lord Kinnaird.*)

Lord HAMILTON of DALZELL: My Lords, the proposal of the noble Lord who has just sat down is even wider than that of the noble Lord who moved the previous Amendment, and I think that any arguments which could be used against the present Amendment have already been used against the former one. I am sorry that certain noble Lords have not been satisfied with the attitude taken up with regard to this Bill, but I think it has been justified by the event.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: My Lords, I am not certain whether the noble Lord intends to persist in his Amendment. If he does I shall have something to say upon it.

LORD KINNAIRD: I withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass."—(*Lord Hamilton of Dalzell.*)

On question, Motion agreed to.

Bill passed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools: Of parents and guardians of children attending schools at Thornham; Elton; Tarleton (two); Hulton; Chequerbent. Of teachers in schools at Tarleton; Thornham; Hulton.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

TRANSVAAL AND ORANGE RIVER COLONY (NEW CONSTITUTION).

Petition in favour of equality of franchise under a new constitution for coloured peoples in South Africa, of president and members of the Coloured People's Vigilance Committee; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the following Papers, having been commanded to be presented to this House by His Majesty, had been so presented on the following dates by delivery to the Clerk of the Parliaments, pursuant to Standing Order No. CXI , viz.:—

TRADE REPORTS.—I. ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3605. Argentine Republic (Rosario).

No. 3606. Italy (Finances of Italy).

No. 3607. Spain (Cadiz). (May 30).

No. 3608. Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul).

No. 3609. Turkey (Basra).

No. 3610. Russia (Rostor-on-Don).

No. 3611. France (Pondicherry).

No. 3612. Spain (Galicia, the Asturias, and Leon).

No. 3613. China (Canton).

No. 3614. France (Corsica).

No. 3615. Costa Rica.

No. 3616. France (Bordeaux).

No. 3617. Greece (Thessaly).

No. 3618. Roumania.

No. 3619. China (Nanking).

No. 3620. Guatemala (Quezaltenango). (June 6.)

No. 3621. Greece (Piræus and District).

No. 3622. United States (Chicago).

No. 3623. Western Pacific (Samoa).

No. 3624. Denmark. (June 8.)

No. 3625. France (Silk Industry of Lyons and St. Etienne and Trade of Grenoble.

No. 3626. France (Cochin China).

No. 3627. Germany (Hamburg). (June 11.)

No. 3628. China (Shanghai). (June 12.)

No. 3629. France (Dunkirk).

No. 3630. Bulgaria.

No. 3631. Spain (Barcelona).

No. 3632. China (Teng Hueh). (June 13.)

II. MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 652. Germany (Agriculture in the Rhenish Province (May 30.)

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Index to the Reports of His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Representatives abroad on trade and subjects of general interest (with Appendix) 1905. (May 30.)

ARMY (VOLUNTEER CORPS).

Annual return of the volunteer corps of Great Britain for the year 1905. (May 30.)

POST OFFICE.

Agreements between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Offices of:

I. Peru for the exchange of money orders, dated October 22nd, 1904, and December 25th, 1904.

II. The Dutch East Indies, dated March 30th, 1905, and June 3rd, 1905. (May 31).

TREATY SERIES, NO. 7 (1906).

Treaty between the United Kingdom and Nicaragua for the mutual extradition of fugitive criminals; signed at Managua, April 19th, 1905. (Ratification exchanged in London, February 13th, 1906). (May 31.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

I. (Regulations as to Special Grants). Regulations providing for special grants in aid of certain local education authorities in England and Wales. (May 31.)

II. (Pupil Teacher Regulations). Regulations for the instruction and training of pupil teachers (in force from August 1st, 1906). (June 9.)

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JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

Letters Patent issued under the Great Seal appointing Thomas Milvain, Esquire, K.C., to be Judge Advocate-General. (June 1.)

POOR LAW (SCOTLAND).

Reports to the Local Government Board for Scotland on the burden of the existing rates and the general financial position of the outer Hebrides. (June 7.)

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery, 1905–1906. (June 8.)

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Regulations for the preliminary education, training, and certification of teachers for various grades of schools. (June 8.)

ROYAL PATRIOTIC FUND CORPORATION.

Second Report of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation for the year 1905. (June 12).

COLONIES (ANNUAL.)

No. 483. Ashanti (Report for 1905). (June 13.)

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland appointing the places at which examinations for 1906 shall be held.

PHARMACY (IRELAND) ACTS, 1875 TO 1890.

Two Orders in Council, dated 19th June, 1906, approving of amended regulations made by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

The annual report on the state of the finances of the University of St. Andrews, under the provisions of section 30 of the Act, for the year 1904–1905.

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Statement of receipt and expenditure of the conservators of the River Medway, for the year ended 25th March, 1906.

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Account and report for 1905–1906.

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EDUCATION (RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN COUNCIL SCHOOLS).

Return (in part) respecting: Laid before the House (pursuant to order of the 4th of May last), and to be printed. (No. 115.)

AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS IN BRITISH COLONIES (MR. RIDER HAGGARD'S REPORT).

Report; minutes of evidence, with appendices, analysis, and index.

SOUTH-EASTERN AND CHATHAM RAILWAY.

Report to the Board of Trade by Major John Wallace Pringle, R.E., of the inquiry into the circumstances attending the fall of the roof of Charing Cross Station, which occurred on the 5th December, 1905.

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No. 3633. Western Pacific (Friendly Islands).

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No. 3635. Peru.
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No. 3637. Germany (Grand Duchy of Baden).

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PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Report by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons (1) that the provisions of the Buckhaven, Methill, and Innerleven Burgh Extension Order and of the North British Railway Order are of such a character that they ought to be dealt with by Private Bills and not by Provisional Orders; (2) that, save as aforesaid, the Provisional Orders be allowed to proceed, subject to such recommendations as may hereafter be made with respect to the several orders.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.

Rules of the Supreme Court (May) 1906.
The Middlesex County Council Act 1898, Rules.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury minute, dated 5th June, 1906, granting a retired allowance to David Henriques, engineer, 2nd class, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Post Office, under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act.

ARKLOW HARBOUR.

Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners, and statement of accounts for 1905.

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.

Account of receipts and payments under the Act during the year ended 31st March, 1906.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Returns showing, up to 31st March, 1906—

I. The amount of Consolidated Stock; the application of the money raised by such stock; the sums carried to the Consolidated Loans Fund; the application of the Consolidated Loans Fund; an estimate of the expenditure of the council for all purposes, for the year ending 31st March, 1907.

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SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Orders made by the following councils and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

City and county council of Bristol fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the Horfield Ward of the city and county; council of the county borough of Burnley fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the borough.

FINANCE BILL.

Brought from the Commons, and read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a to-morrow (The Lord Privy Seal [*M. Ripon*]). (No. 117.)

METROPOLITAN POLICE (COMMISSION BILL).

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JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (NO 2) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, as your Lordships probably know, this

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JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (NO 2) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, as your Lordships probably know, this is one of the measures which were promised in His Majesty's Gracious Speech from the Throne, and it has already passed through all its stages in the other House without opposition. The main part of the Bill is contained in the first clause, which abolishes the qualification by estate for Justices of the Peace; but the opportunity has been taken to include various other clauses from a Bill which was moved by the noble and learned Earl opposite, the late Lord Chancellor. The second and fourth clauses are taken from that Bill, and the third clause is inserted at the wish of the Incorporated Law Society.

Qualification by estate was put into an Act passed in the year 1744, which provided that a Justice of the Peace must be possessed of land of the value of £100 a year, either freehold, leasehold, or copyhold. Then in 1875 there was this addition made, that as an alternative a Justice of the Peace might be in occupation of a house worth £100 a year. Both of those qualifications will go under the first clause of this Bill. Your Lordships will recognise how this qualification has restricted the appointment of Justices of the Peace in the past. In some places it has been impossible to discover gentlemen qualified in this particular way to become justices, and in some counties this has been a source of very real inconvenience in the administration of justice.

Your Lordships will agree with me that the best qualification for properly carrying out the duties of a Justice of the Peace is a thorough and sound education. At the time when this qualification was first made obligatory it is not too much to say that only those people who had property were properly educated. But the happy diffusion of education and knowledge among all classes has qualified a large number of men for the office who, though they possess the confidence of their fellow-countrymen, do not possess the necessary property. There is the anomaly of certain gentlemen elected to occupy very responsible positions, and who, although they occupy the position of Justice of the Peace *ex-officio* for a certain time, cannot be permanently appointed to the Commission.

I think your Lordships will agree that it will be a very happy thing if it is possible to draw more widely in the future upon a large and deserving class of the community who possess all the qualifications necessary for a good Justice of the Peace. Finally, I may point out that this qualification by estate is a very partial one, because it only gives the qualification to one particular kind of wealth, and people possessing wealth in other forms are not made capable of exercising the office. I venture to hope that in these circumstances your Lordships will pass this Bill and do away with qualification by estate.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Earl of Beauchamp.*)

*THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH: My Lords, I do not often intervene in your Lordships' debates, but I should like to say a few words on this Bill, which affects very considerably the position I occupy. I do not propose to offer any opposition to the Second Reading, but I think we ought to remember that this Bill, short as it is and short as has been its introduction, does involve a very large issue.

The noble Earl has not, I think, referred to the true reason why it was thought necessary to impose a property qualification for justices of the peace. In the old days quarter sessions controlled the local government of the country, and it was obviously very important that those who were responsible for the administration of the finances of the county should have some qualification which would suggest, at any rate, that they had a knowledge of the business which they were called upon to discharge. The Local Government Act of 1888 abolished the necessity for the qualification in that respect, and I for one cannot ignore the fact that circumstances to-day do point in a manner that they have never pointed before to the desirability of abolishing property qualification.

We cannot ignore, and we do not wish to ignore, the experience we had at the last election, when representatives of a certain class were returned in considerable numbers, and in most cases by large majorities, to have a share in making laws. I do not think it would be easy to argue that representatives of the same class are unfit to administer justice under the laws which they themserves have had a share in framing. This question of property qualification always seems to me to be something on the lines of the speed limit of motor-cars. If you can devise a speed limit which ensures safety under all conditions, it is a very valuable thing; but, if not, you had better do away with it. As the noble Earl in charge of this Bill has said, a property qualification does not carry with it all other qualifications, and, therefore, I for one shall not offer any opposition to the Second Reading of this Bill.

But the Bill, as I say, opens out a very wide question with regard to the character of the recommendations to be made to the Lord Chancellor for appointment on the Commission of the Peace. I think it is only right that, standing in the position we do, we should have some definite statement from the Government as to their wishes with regard to the political aspect of such appointments. There was a debate in your Lordships' House in the year 1893, arising out of a Resolution passed in another place. The noble Marquess who leads this House took a prominent part in that debate, and expressed opinions, with many of which I entirely agree. He said—

> "Whatever a man's opinions may be, the holding of those opinions ought not to have the effect of keeping him off the Bench. If it does, the result will be to shake confidence generally in the magistracy."

With that we all agree, and I should resent as strongly as anyone the keeping of men off the Bench, simply because they held particular views. Whether that is done or not is another matter. If it is true, as has been urged in different directions, that the public has lost confidence in the impartiality of the Bench, the sooner that confidence is restored the better.

The noble Marquess went further, and instanced the result of the Home Rule Bill. He complained that owing to the introduction of that Bill, a considerable number of magistrates had transferred their allegiance from one side to the other, thereby constituting a grievance which had to be redressed. But if, whenever there is any split in a Party, the principle is to be adopted that new appointments must be made in order to redress the balance, it will land us in considerable difficulties. In that case, in the near future, we shall have free food magistrates; we shall have protectionist magistrates; we shall have magistrates who desire secular education; we shall have magistrates who desire religious denominational education; we shall have magistrates who wish to feed the children of the poor; and we shall have magistrates who wish to feed the representatives of the people; and instead of there being, as in the old days, the simple division of Whig and Tory, there will be a complicated system of compound fractions. It seems to me that this is not a principle that will meet with general approval.

The noble Marquess went on to explain the objects of the Resolution of 1893, which only meant that in future the Lord Chancellor would examine more closely the recommendations made and would not refuse to receive recommendations from other persons than the Lord-Lieutenant in regard to the appointment of justices of the peace. I believe that accurately represents the views of noble Lords opposite to-day. What we should like to know is, what are the other sources from which these recommendations are to come? I hope we shall hear definitely and distinctly from the Government whether it is their wish that the Commission of the Peace shall be a reward for active Party services. I take it that the other sources referred to are the ordinary wire-pullers in the various districts. If it is the wish of the Government that the Bench should be the reward of Party services, then, undoubtedly, that source is the best to which they can go; but if the object is at the same time to restore confidence in the impartiality of the Bench, which is supposed to have been lost, I venture to think that when it becomes known that those who recommend justices in the future are active partisans on one side or the other in the different counties, confidence will not be restored by that means.

We hear a good deal about the preponderance of one Party on the bench. That is not denied, but I think it is largely exaggerated. I have no doubt that the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has received various statements from different quarters representing what is supposed to be the political complexion of the various benches. This is not the first time that it has been done. I was supplied with one myself by the late Lord Herschell when he was Lord Chancellor. It was grotesque in its inexactitudes, and if any argument based on figures is to be valuable those figures must be authentic and accurate.

May I refer for a few minutes to the case of my own county? I have been Lord-Lieutenant now for fifteen years. The county I represent is a large one, large in area, large in population, with great centres of industry. The difficulty of selection to-day is very great, but when I was appointed I succeeded, with a few years interval, a series of Liberal Lords-Lieutenant lasting over fifty years. I found on the benches in Staffordshire 320 magistrates, of whom 260 had been recommended by Liberal Lords-Lieutenant. If there was the disproportion that is alleged, then it was obviously not because of Party appointments. I have always endeavoured to follow the example set me by the Liberal Lords-Lieutenant who preceded me. I have never inquired into the politics of any candidate recommended. I have always held that the administration of justice is an important duty, and that the men selected must be men of impartiality and men whom the county will trust no matter to which side they belong. With those views in mind I have always endeavoured to avoid Party extremes, and judging by the dissatisfaction expressed by the leaders of both Parties in my county, I can console myself with the sorrowful reflection that I have not been altogether unsuccessful.

At present the responsibility of recommending rests with the Lord-Lieutenant. As long as that is so, he is, of course, solely responsible, but if the responsibility is to be taken away, if it is to be divided, you cannot leave him the sole and only target for those who think that improper appointments have been made. A Lord-Lieutenant recognises that the greatest of his responsibilities is the selection of fit and proper persons to recommend to the Lord Chancellor for appointment on the Commission of the Peace. As long as the responsibility is supposed to be his, no matter who recommends, no matter who appoints the Lord-Lieutenant will be held responsible if the appointment is a bad one.

We hear a good deal to-day about trusting the man on the spot. Do not let us forget that in this connection the man on the spot is the Lord-Lieutenant; he resides on the spot, in many cases he has been born on the spot, and in most cases he hopes to die on the spot. If any great change is contemplated, before that change is undertaken let us remember the remarks that fell from the late Lord Selborne, himself a Lord Chancellor of a Liberal Government, in the debate to which I have already referred. Lord Selborne said there were many bad ways of appointing a magistrate; election was bad, but Party nomination was a great deal worse. While no doubt a Lord-Lieutenant has his limitations, and his shortcomings may be many, are we quite sure that the proposed alteration will be an improvement? At any rate, before we make any definite change in this direction, let us remember that we have it on high authority that it is sometimes better to bear the ills we have than fly to others that we know not of.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): My Lords, the immediate subject of this Bill is the removal of the qualification at present required by the law for the appointment of magistrates in counties. I have not heard the noble Earl express disapprobation of that proposal. I do not know that we shall hear such disapprobation, because the system of procuring men by means of a money qualification is an ancient system in this country which has been discredited by use. It used to be applicable to Members of Parliament, for example, but it is no longer so applicable. I hope that soon it will be no longer applicable either to the appointment of magistrates, because in this country, if there is one thing clear above others, it is that merit among men is by no means proportioned to the amount of money they happen to possess. That really is the subject-matter of the Bill so far as it is in the least degree capable of controversy. The other clauses, which have not been referred to, are, I think, drawn from the suggestions of previous Governments, and consist of minor proposals for the improvement of the administration of justice by magistrates.

I am most anxious to present to the House, which contains so many lords-lieutenant, my view of my duty in this matter and of the way in which it should be exercised, in order that I may receive the assistance and support of the lords-lieutenant. I would first state quite frankly what is the situation which I have found. I have received large numbers of representations, from all parts of England and from some parts of Scotland, to the effect that an enormous preponderance of the justices of the peace in many counties are of the Conservative Party. Sometimes the proportion is five to one, sometimes twenty-five to one, and in one case it was seventy to one only a few years ago. That ought to be recognised as an unfortunate state of things by men of all opinions and Parties. For what is the result? It means that there is a sense of injustice among many persons competent to discharge these duties, who believe themselves to be excluded from the performance of them by reason of their holding a particular set of political opinions. I am thankful to believe that Englishmen will not sit down contentedly in a *status* of inferiority on account of their political opinions. I hope they never will do so, and it has been the strength of this country that they have always refused to do so.

This state of things also impairs the administration of justice, for this reason. It is urged by some that political considerations ought to be excluded altogether. That is possible with the Judges. They are expected to observe a constant neutrality. Their whole time is taken, and you pay them for it; and they are under usage and custom obliged to observe neutrality. But with the justices of the peace the case is entirely different. They give gratuitious, if most valuable service. I have never impugned their desire to be impartial. But they are like their neighbours and unlike the Judges and stipendiary magistrates in being constantly, and properly, engaged in political work. It is not ignoble work—the effort of two or more Parties that their views should prevail according to the judgment of the country. Party conflict I regard as an honourable conflict, for the country must be governed by Party. But what is the effect? That the most prominent men in the county, selected for the office of magistrate, are also by reason of their energy and ability embarked in active political controversy; and when the public see that the active combatants in political controversy are, if they be Conservatives, upon the Bench, and if they be not Conservatives, mainly not upon the Bench, it may be left to the judgment of any candid man to say whether that is likely to increase public confidence in the administration of justice. That is the state of things which I found. It will not be disputed that there is a great preponderance in nearly all the counties of England. What is the source of this evil—for as such I must regard it? I have been in correspondence with not a few lords-lieutenant, and I have received the most courteous and fair representations from them. Nearly all of them assure me that they have never known, or rarely known, what the political opinions were of the gentlemen whom they recommended for appointment. I most unreservedly accept that statement, and I believe that if they had known the political opinions of those recommended to them for the Commission, and whom they in turn recommended to the Lord Chancellor, the probability is that the present disparity would not have been so marked. But there have been two causes which have largely operated in producing this disparity. One is the existence of this property qualification which the Bill is intended to remove. Undoubtedly it has limited the choice, for it is the case that the wealthier part of the community are mostly on one side of politics. I profoundly regret it, but it is the fact, and it has necessarily a reflex action upon the appointment of magistrates.

Another cause is this—that lords-lieutenant in the great industrial counties cannot possibly know all the persons recommended, and they have to act on the advice and recommendation of local people. The local people have very likely to act on the advice and recommendation of others below them; and so there is a constant delegation of authority and a constant diminution of responsibility the further you go from the original source. When names are sent up, what more natural if, among a number of capable persons to be appointed to the bench, those who make the recommendation prefer the persons with whom they are more in touch, who are more agreeable for holding the same opinions, and to be reckoned, therefore, as more sensible? That is why the lords-lieutenant have been led to create this tremendous preponderance which many sincerely regret. The better course is that which has been in the main—I will not say always—followed by my predecessors. In appointing to the borough benches the Lord Chancellors have, as a rule, made themselves acquainted with the existing political complexion of the bench as well as with its composition in other respects, not for the purpose of procuring partisan appointments, but for the purpose of avoiding the giving of any partisan complexion to the bench, and of securing a fair balance of opinion. As far as I can judge from the correspondence with which I have been favoured, the lords-lieutenant seem to have acted on the reverse policy and to have made no such inquiries. They have said *Virtute me involvo*, and have refused to know what the political opinions of the persons recommended were.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH: I did not say I did not know. I said I did not ask.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I really do not know why knowledge acquired by investigation is to be regarded as tainted. The communications that have passed between the lords-lieutenant and myself contain a disclaimer of any desire or intention to act in a partisan spirlt, and I think that the better course is to know and to consider the recommendations for the purpose of preventing the very preponderance of which I have spoken. That is the wiser course.

The noble Lord desired to know what was the position to be taken up by the Lord Chancellor in regard to the lords-lieutenant. In the recommendations that have come to me I have in every case, and will in every case, communicate them to the lords-lieutenant. I have done so repeatedly, and I shall always continue to do so. I believe, from the experience I have already gained, that I shall be met frankly and courteously, for, above all in these things we are both serving His Majesty in a public duty, and it is our duty as far as we can to assist each other. I will do what I can to represent to the lords-lieutenant the wish that the appointments of thoroughly suitable persons should be made to the county bench so as to redress the present undue preponderance of opinions of one particular kind. I think that it is a mischief that ought to be redressed, and I shall certainly, as hitherto, make respectful communications to the lords-lieutenant, believing that they are free to receive recommendations from all classes and conditions of men, and that the Lord Chancellor is not the only person who ought to be excluded from making recommendations. I hope that it is not necessary for me to disclaim any desire to act in a partisan spirit. My object is nothing more or less than to co-operate with the lords-lieutenant, if they will do me the honour of receiving in good part communications from me, in the work of making the bench such as will evoke the confidence of the country and lead to the effective administration of justice.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, if my noble friend behind me travelled a little beyond the limits of the Bill on the Table, we are at any rate indebted to him for having elicited from the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack a speech to which we listened with the greatest interest, and to the tone and temper of which, if I may be permitted to say so, no one on this side of the House could take exception.

The Bill contains, as has been truly said, only one clause of serious importance, that which puts an end to the estate qualification of county magistrates. This change in the law has been recommended to us on two grounds. We are told, in the first place, that the existence of the qualification inconveniently narrows the area of selection, and, in the second place—and the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has enforced that argument—that the possession of the qualification affords in itself no security of the fitness of the individual selected. I desire to say a few words with regard to each of those points.

I think it is on the whole true that the estate qualification does not afford a full and sufficient guarantee of the fitness of the person selected to serve on the bench. On the other hand, it seems to me that the existence of the qualification has served in the past a useful purpose. It has been an indication given by the Legislature as to the kind of persons to whom it was desired to entrust these judicial duties. Those persons were, above all things, to be persons of education and of independent position; and there can be no doubt—I think that has been admitted—there was a time when it was not unreasonable to look to the property qualification as affording, perhaps in a rough-and-ready fashion, some guarantee that the individual possessing the qualification possessed also a sufficient amount of education and a sufficient amount of independence of position.

The Bill on the Table contains a clause which shows how necessary, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, that independence of position is. I refer to the clause under which solicitors are permitted to serve on the Bench, but are not allowed to practise as solicitors before the bench of which they are members.

The property qualification served another useful purpose. It rendered the task of the lord-lieutenant and the Lord Chancellor somewhat easier by keeping within limits the area from which appointments to the judicial bench were made. The task of selection is difficult enough, and it will certainly become very much more difficult now that the area of choice is so greatly enlarged. While, however, there was undoubtedly something to be said, in favour of the estate qualification, I am yet bound to say that, in my opinion, the time has come when that qualification ought no longer to be insisted upon.

Your Lordships have heard from the noble Lord who introduced the Bill, and I have heard it from other sources, that there are some parts of England in which the existence of this condition so narrows the field of selection that it is difficult or impossible to find enough individuals to take their place on the county benches. I freely admit moreover, that we have arrived at a time when a test of this kind has become obsolete. It was invented, I believe, in 1744, and things have changed a good deal since that time; we can no longer pretend that either independence of character or position, or education, are to be found entirely or almost entirely within the class to which the property qualification was applicable. We have also to bear in mind that in the case of the borough magistrates this qualification is not insisted upon, and I believe that I am right in saying that in Ireland it is wholly unknown.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: And in Scotland.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: And also in Scotland. For these reasons I, for one, would certainly advise your Lordships to accept what I conceive to be the principle of the Bill. The only real security, after all, which we possess for the proper selection and appointment of magistrates is that care shall be taken by those who make recommendations to the lords-lieutenant, by the lords-lieutenant in making their submissions to the Lord Chancellor, and by the noble and learned Lord himself in dealing with them. If proper care is exercised in all these quarters, I say by all means let us accept as magistrates competent persons, whether they are found inside or outside the property test. After listening to the speech of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, I am encouraged to express my confident opinion that we may look in the future for a full and sufficient exercise of that care.

This Bill has created a certain amount of alarm—I think it alarmed my noble friend behind me—because many persons detected in it an indication of a desire on the part of His Majesty's Government to depart altogether from the old usage, and to fill the benches with gentlemen who would be appointed, not because more magistrates were required, or because those gentlemen themselves were fit and competent people, but in order to give recognition to Party services or Party fidelity which had not been, in the opinion of noble Lords opposite, sufficiently recognised in the past. All I can say is that if I could believe that these appointments were to be made in that spirit, I should feel that a very serious and a very unmerited blow was to be struck at the magistracy of this country. I believe—and the noble and learned Lord has, I think, very generously admitted it this evening—that the record of the county benches is a clean and honourable record. I am glad to see the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack nod assent to that. I referred, as did my noble friend behind me, to the debates which took place in 1893, and I noticed that the Statesman who now fills the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer went out of his way to express the conviction that, taking the magistrates as a class, they were entirely free from the suspicion of partiality or incompetence. I believe that to be the general feeling entertained by the people of the country.

Now, what is the complaint, and the only complaint, which is made with regard to magistracy? It is that which has been indicated this evening by the noble and learned Lord. I mean the complaint that, owing to various circumstances, there is among the magistrates as a body what the noble and learned Lord described as an enormous preponderance of gentlemen belonging to one particular Party. How large that preponderance is I do not know. If it is indeed such an enormous preponderance, then I agree with the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack that it is unfortunate, and I do not deny that the existence of such a preponderance may possibly give rise in certain quarters to a feeling of suspicion and injustice. But what I do venture to add is this. Let us beware, in our endeavour to put an end to that sense of injustice, lest we do something very much more dangerous to the common welfare, and that is redress the balance by adding enormously to the number of magistrates and appointing men selected not on account of their fitness, not on account of the independence of their position, but because they have certain Party connections, or have rendered certain Party services which it is desired to reward and to recognise.

The debate which took place in your Lordship's House, in 1893, and to which my noble friend referred, was a most interesting one. I may remind your Lordships that on that occasion this House resolved

> "That it is inexpedient to disturb the present usage for the purpose of putting on the Bench justices whose political opinions are in consonance with those of the Government of the day."

That Resolution was carried *nemine contradicente*, and although not less than the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack I should rejoice to see a diminution of that disparity to which he referred, I should, I confess, greatly regret any attempt to give to these local Benches a representative character. I believe that the only result of an attempt of the kind will be to give them a partisan character. You would then have the magistracy of each county, and on every bench, a microcosm of Parliament. You would have, as my noble friend suggested, not two Parties but three or four Parties or cliques among the magistrates, and if that came to pass the want of confidence, if there be any, would be much greater than it is at present.

I was glad that my noble friend recalled the late Lord Selborne's memorable warning when he told your Lordships that of all the bad ways of appointing Judges and magistrates Party nomination was the worst. That warning, coming from a Member of this House of Lord Selborne's high position, is not one which your Lordships can afford to forget.

One word more with regard to the position of the lords-lieutenant. Speaking as one of them, I would say that we recognise that the final and ultimate responsibility for these appointments must rest with the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, but we feel our responsibility for the recommendations which we lay before him from time to time, and we earnestly hope that nothing will be done to diminish that feeling of responsibility.

It is impossible for the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack to sift for himself the great mass of names which may be put forward from various sources, and if he will forgive me for saying so, I would add that he cannot expect us to help him, as we would desire, if we feel that our advice is liable to be perfunctorily set aside. I do not believe for a moment, after listening to the noble and learned Lord, that our advice will be treated in that manner, and holding that belief firmly I, for one, accept this Bill, not reluctantly, but ungrudgingly, feeling that it will do something to widen usefully the area from which magistrates are now selected, feeling that it removes a test which has ceased to be applicable to the present conditions of our public life, but at the same time upon the assumption that in the future, as in the past, the primary questions must be whether any given individual is upon his merits, and from his character, his education, and the independence of his position, really fitted to take his place beside those who will be his colleagues.

*THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, this discussion has wandered somewhat from the Bill before us, but I by no means regret that, because the debate has been an extremely interesting and valuable one. It is valuable if only for the speech of the noble Earl opposite, which elicited from the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack a statement as to the view he takes of this question and of his duties in regard to it, which I think from its tone and its spirit commended itself to the House. The noble Earl quoted some words of mine which I ventured to address to your Lordships' House some years ago. To what I said then I adhere. My noble and learned friend has put the ideas which at that time I had in my mind so very much better than I did that I have nothing to say on my own behalf, or on behalf of His Majesty's Government, further than that we take the speech of the noble and learned Lord as stating the principles on which this matter ought to be conducted.

My noble and learned friend spoke of the very great preponderance in some counties of magistrates of one political opinion, and he said that in one case the preponderance was seventy to one, and in others forty or fifty to one. Such a vast disproportion I look upon as an evil. I think it ought to be the object of lords-lieutenant, whatever opinions they may hold—and it certainly would be the object of my noble and learned friend, I have no doubt—to take all reasonable means for the purpose of diminishing a serious disproportion of that kind. I agree entirely with my noble friend who has just sat down that no one ought to be appointed in regard to any Party or political consideration who was not fully and entirely fit for the important office of a justice of the peace, and I am quite sure your Lordships need entertain no fear that, as far as my noble and learned friend has authority in this matter, he will depart from that principle.

I believe it to be the object of my noble and learned friend and of the Government to act to the utmost extent in friendly communication with the lords-lieutenant of counties. My noble and learned friend said so, and I observed that your Lordships accepted that statement, and that lords-lieutenant in this House are willing to act in that respect in relation to my noble and learned friend. Therefore, as far as that part of the speech is concerned, I need say no more. I distinctly think, as I have said, that such a disproportion is an evil, and I venture respectfully to hope that the lords-lieutenant themselves will endeavour, in co-operation with the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, to mitigate that evil.

There really is very little to say in respect to the Bill itself. It has met with no opposition. It was very natural that my noble friend opposite should pronounce what perhaps might be called a funereal oration on the principle of estate qualification for magistrates. Whatever may have been the value of the qualification or the necessity for it, if it was a necessity, in past centuries it has entirely passed away. To lay down in these days a pecuniary qualification for the exercise of any description of office is altogether contrary to the spirit of the times, and I am delighted to think that this, which is almost, if not quite, the last remnant of that system, is likely to be abolished with the unanimous assent of your Lordships.

When I had the honour to be lord-lieutenant of the North Riding, which position increasing years have obliged me to resign, I was often met by requests for the appointment of magistrates in the great mineral division of Cleveland, who would be drawn from the working classes of that district. I know that working men have been appointed in boroughs, and that they have been useful and have acted extremely well, but it was impossible for me to appoint any such men in that great district. The property qualification stood in the way, and I was obliged to say: "I am very sorry. Mr. So-and-So appears to me to be a man well-fitted for the office, but he has not the qualification, and therefore I cannot recommend him to the Lord Chancellor." I think that was a mischievous system calculated to create discontent, and I am very glad that Parliament is now about to put an end to it.

On Question, Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

EDUCATION OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My Lords, the proposal contained in this Bill is one which I venture to think your Lordships will have no difficulty in agreeing to. The Bill has passed the other House of Parliament without amendment. It consists of two clauses taken from the Bill introduced last year by the late Government, and those clauses have only for their object the giving of power—it is not a compulsory obligation—to school authorities to do a little more for defective and epileptic children than they can do at the present time. There is a precedent for it in what the school boards can do for blind and deaf and dumb children at the present moment, and although I am afraid that those who are the particular objects of this Bill cannot in all cases be put in a position even by education to earn their livelihood, I believe their sad lot may be considerably ameliorated. I know from my own experience and from communications which have been made to me that this power is anxiously looked for, especially by some of the larger school boards. I hope, therefore, that your Lordships will have no difficulty in giving the Bill a Second Reading and ultimately passing it into law.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL: On behalf of His Majesty's Government I have to say that there is no objection to the Second Reading of this Bill.

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

CRIMINAL APPEAL BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Motion for the House to resolve itself into Committee.

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of ONSLOW): I should like to know whether, in view of the new Clause I., which the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chancellor intends to move, the noble Lords who have Amendments on the Paper to Clause 1 wish to persevere with those Amendments.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: What I would suggest is that the new Clause 1 standing in the name of the Lord Chancellor should take the place of the present

Clause 1, and that the Bill should be reprinted in that form. We should then have it before us in a complete form.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: Amendments to Clause 1 in its present form have been placed on the Paper by noble Lords opposite. I would suggest to the Committee that the new clause of which I have given notice, in substitution for Clause 1 should be agreed to. I may say that I am not specially enamoured of the drafting of the substituted clause, and if noble Lords think it needs amendment in order to carry out the common purpose we all have in view, Amendments can be moved either in the Standing Committee or on Report.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I have no objection to that course being taken.

Clause 1:—

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I now propose the Amendment standing in my name.

Amendment moved,—

"To leave out Clause 1, and to insert as a new clause:—'1.—(1) A person convicted on indictment may appeal within the time provided by this Act to the Court of Criminal Appeal against his conviction on any ground of appeal which involves a question of law alone; and with the leave either of the court before whom he is convicted or of the Court of Criminal Appeal on any ground of appeal which involves a question of fact alone or of mixed law and fact. (2) A person convicted on indictment may also appeal within the time provided by this Act to the Court of Criminal Appeal against the judgment (other than judgment of death) passed on his conviction on the ground of illegality, or unless the judgment is one fixed by law of undue severity. (3) If on any such appeal the court are of opinion that the appeal ought to be allowed, the court shall: (*a*) If the appeal is an appeal against conviction, and the court are of opinion that the appeal ought to be allowed on the ground only that though there was evidence proper to be submitted to the jury, yet the verdict of the jury was against the weight of evidence, direct a new trial of the case; and (*b*) In any other case, as the case requires, either quash the conviction and direct a judgment of acquittal to be entered, or quash the judgment passed at the trial, and pass such other judgment in substitution therefor as they think ought to have been passed. (4) If on any such appeal the court are of opinion that the appeal should be dismissed, the court shall dismiss the appeal accordingly.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 6 agreed to.

Clause 7:—

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: As a consequence of the alteration that has been made I propose the omission of Subsection 1. This subsection provides that—

"Writs of error, and the powers and practice now existing in the High Court in respect of motions for new trials, or the granting thereof in criminal cases, are hereby abolished (and save as provided by this Act, no appeal shall lie from any judgment of the High Court in any criminal cause or matter)."

My reason for moving the omission of this subsection is that appeal on questions of fact is hereafter to be with permission. There are certain appeals now allowed without permission, and certain appeals are also allowed at present by the *fiat* of the Attorney-General, and may come up even to this House. I propose to leave those ancient privileges of appeal untouched.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, lines 13 to 17, to leave out Subsection (1)."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I hope that before the next stage is taken the Bill will be re-printed, so that when it does come on again we shall have the complete Bill in our hands.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: The noble and learned Earl suggests that the Bill should be re-printed before it goes to the Standing Committee?

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: Yes.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I agree.

Bill recommitted to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended. (No. 116.)

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The EARL of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of PORTSMOUTH) moved to amend Clause 1, which provided that "notwithstanding anything in the Reserve Forces Acts, men might be enlisted into the Army Reserve in any part of His Majesty's dominions outside the United Kingdom except a self-governing colony," by inserting before the words "part of His Majesty's dominions" the words "British Protectorate or in any."

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 9, after the word 'any' to insert the words 'British Protectorate or in any.'"—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD held that the Amendment was useless inasmuch as Sub-section 3 defined the expression "His Majesty's Dominions outside the United Kingdom" as including British Protectorates.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ELGIN): The explanation is that some Protectorates are not within His Majesty's dominions.

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD: Then your definition is wrong; it says that His Majesty's dominions outside the United Kingdom shall include British Protectorates.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH withdrew the Amendment at this stage and said he would bring it forward again on Third Reading.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH moved to leave out the words "a self-governing colony" and to insert in their stead the words "in a colony possessing responsible government."

Amendment moved—

"In lines 10 and 11, to leave out the words 'a self-governing colony,' and to insert the words 'in a colony possessing responsible government.'"—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH moved to amend Sub-section 2, the latter part of which provided that regulations made under Section 20 of the Reserve Forces Act, 1882, might make such adaptations in the Reserve Forces Acts as might be necessary for the purpose of adapting those Acts to the circumstances of the several parts of His Majesty's dominions outside the United Kingdom, by the addition after the words "United Kingdom" of the words "or of British Protectorates."

Amendment moved—

"In line 22, after the word 'Kingdom,' to insert the words 'or of British Protectorates.'"—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD said this Amendment was open to the same objection.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH thereupon withdrew it until the next stage.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH was proceeding to move other Amendments, when

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD said that evidently little attention had been paid to the Amendments, and he suggested that they should be reconsidered.

THE EARL OF ELGIN: I understand that the Amendments have been carefully considered by the Colonial Office and the War Office, and that their object is to bring the definition into accord with what is the law on the subject.

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD said the carelessness of the drafting of the new Amendments was obvious from the fact that the words "a self-governing colony" had already been struck out and the words "in a colony possessing responsible government" inserted; yet the definition clause provided that the expression "self-governing colony" should mean any colony which was specified in the schedule. The expression "self-governing colony" now appeared nowhere in the Bill, and therefore the definition was an absurdity.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): Surely the term "a colony possessing responsible government" is the correct term. That is the technical description of the colonies in the schedule.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I would suggest the desirability of reporting Progress. I caught one phrase a moment ago to the effect that it was proposed to make a Protectorate part of His Majesty's dominions. That would be a very serious innovation.

LORD ASHBOURNE said that if the matter were left to the draftsmen the wording could be put right. He thought it would be better to allow the Minister in charge of the Bill, on his own Motion, to move that the Committe stage stand over.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH said he did not quite follow the objections that had been taken, but he was prepared to agree to the adjournment of the Committee stage.

House resumed; Bill to be again in Committee on Monday next.

SEAMEN'S AND SOLDIERS' FALSE CHARACTERS BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY BILL.

Amendment reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow.

House adjourned at a quarter before Seven o'clock, till Tomorrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 14*th June*, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the following Certificate and Report relating to the Election for the City of Worcester:—

> The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868, The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Acts, 1854–1895.
>
> Election of a Member of Parliament for the City of Worcester, holden on the 17th day of January, 1906.

To the Right Honourable The Speaker of the House of Commons.

We, Sir John Compton Lawrance, Knight, and Sir Joseph Walton, Knight, Judges of the High Court of Justice, and two of the Judges on the Rota for the time being for the Trial of Election Petitions in England and Wales, do hereby Certify in pursuance of the said Acts that upon the twenty-second to the twenty-sixth day of May in this year, we duly held a Court for the trial of and did try the Election Petition for the City of Worcester between Henry Devenish Harben and Richard Cadbury, Petitioners, and George Henry Williamson, Respondent. And in further pursuance of the said Acts We Certify that at the conclusion of the said trial, we determined that the said George Henry Williamson, being the Member whose Election and Return were complained of in the said Petition was not duly elected and returned, and that the said Election was void. And we do hereby certify in writing such our determination to you.

And whereas charges were made in the said Petition of Corrupt and Illegal

Practices having been committed at the said Election, We, in further pursuance of the said Acts, Report as follows :—

1. That no corrupt or illegal practice was proved to have been committed by or with the knowledge and consent of any Candidate at the said Election.

2. That the persons whose names appear in the First Schedule hereto were proved to have been guilty of the corrupt practices of bribery and treating.

3. That there is reason to believe that corrupt practices have extensively prevailed at the said Election.

4. That the said George Henry Williamson was guilty by his agents of the corrupt practice of bribery.

5. That Certificates of Indemnity have been furnished to the persons proved guilty of bribery or treating whose names appear in the Second Schedule hereto.

6. That the corrupt practices which, as there is reason to believe, extensively prevailed at the said Election were treating and the distribution of small sums, varying in amount from sixpence to two shillings and sixpence, as bribes amongst the poorer class of voters.

A Copy of the Evidence and of our Judgments, taken by the Deputies of the Shorthand Writer of the House of Commons, accompanies this our Certificate.

The First Schedule.

Part I.

Names of Persons guilty of Bribery and Treating.

Francis Stephen Clarke.
John Fincher.
John Price.
John Cox.
John Phillips.
Charles Gregory.
Thomas Collins.
Nathaniel Turner.
William Watts.
Thomas Epps.
Henry Ranford.
William Caseley, jun.
George Hughes.
Charles Albert Webb.
Charles Hughes (Queen Street).

Part II.

Names of Persons guilty of Bribery.

Alfred Verrier.
Thomas Henry Burton.
William Henry Smith.
Elijah Bunn.
Henry Willis.
George Manton.
Alfred Boister.
Daniel Taylor.
Arthur Hall.
Walter Poole.
William White.
John Hughes.
Charles Thomas.
George Edward Griffiths.
Samuel Giles.
Thomas Edward Andrews.
John Gough.
William Henry Prodger.
Walter Baulch.
Ernest Cordle.
John Taylor.
Edgar Billings.
George Brant.
Thomas Joseph George Andrews.
Robert Brant.
Edwin Elcock.
Walter Soulsby King.
Charles Hughes (of Dolday).
Samuel Hale.
Henry Glover.
Ernest John Hodnett.
Joseph Lee.
Harry James Dovey.
Owen Cook.
William Hickling
Ernest Charles.
Frank Millington.

Part III.

Names of Persons Guilty of Treating.

Thomas Hugh.
John Bridges.
Walter Church.

The Second Schedule.

Names of Persons who have been furnished with Certificates of Indemnity.

Francis Stephen Clarke.
John Fincher.
John Price.
John Cox.
John Phillips.
Charles Gregory.
Thomas Collins.
Nathaniel Turner.
Alfred Verrier.
Thomas Henry Burton.
William Henry Smith.
Elijah Bunn.
Henry Willis.
George Manton.
Alfred Boister.
Daniel Taylor.
Arthur Hall.
Walter Poole.
William White.
John Hughes,
Charles Thomas.
George Edward Griffiths.
Thomas Edward Andrews.
John Gough.
William Henry Prodger.
John Taylor.
Edgar Billings.
George Brant.
Thomas Joseph George Andrews.
Robert Brant.
Edwin Elcock.
Thomas Pugh.
John Bridges.
Walter Church.

Dated this 13th day of June, 1906.

J. C. LAWRANCE.
JOSEPH WALTON.

And the said certificate and Report from Mr. Justice Lawrance and Mr. Justice Walton, Judges of the High Court of Justice, was ordered to be entered in the journals of this House.

Copy of Shorthand Writer's Notes laid upon the Table by Mr. Speaker.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) asked whether it would be open to the Government to advert at a future date to the declaration just made that corrupt practices extensively prevailed.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) asked whether it was not usual in such cases to have the evidence printed.

*MR. SPEAKER: If any hon. Member or right hon. Member moves that the judgment and evidence should be printed of course that would be done.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) moved that the judgment and the evidence be printed.

*MR. SPEAKER said it was not necessary for him to put the Motion.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) asked whether it was not in accordance with precedent that in a case where corrupt practices extensively prevailed the issue of the writ should be opposed; and whether this was not a ground for disfranchisement.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a proper Question for me.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY said that notice of Motion for a new writ had to be on the Paper for forty-eight hours before it could be moved.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) presumed the Government would follow the usual practice of themselves calling attention to this subject.

Ordered, That the Copy of the Shorthand Writer's Notes of the Judgment of Mr. Justice Lawrance and Mr. Justice Walton on the Trial of the Election Petition for the City of Worcester, also the Minutes of Evidence taken at the Trial of the said Election Petition, be printed. [No. 198.]—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Title amended]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Hackney Electricity Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Title amended]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways (Abandonment) Bill; Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Hull Joint Dock Bill [Lords]; Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [Lords]; Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

Poole Corporation Water Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Wallasey Tramways and Improvements Bill [Lords]. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bury Corporation Bill [Lords]. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against: From Bermondsey; East Grinstead; Leigh; Llanberis; Oldham; Poulton; Rochester (three); St. Cuthbert; Shipton Moyne (two); Sleaford; Stow on the Wold; and, Wandsworth Common; to lie upon the Table.

(EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law: From Blackburn; Kilburn (two); Leek; Martley; Nassington; North Peckham (two); Oldham; Paddington Green; Radwinter; Weston-super-Mare; Wilberforce; and Yarwell; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petitions for alteration of Law: From Faversham and Northwich; to lie upon the Table.

JURORS' EXPENSES BILL.

Petition from Carmarthenshire, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

Two Petitions from North Paddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration: From Ashford; Clitheroe; Codnor; Colne; East Ham; Exeter (three); Ilkeston; Leeds (West); Paddington (North); Reigate (two); Romford; St. Pancras (East); Salisbury (two); Southport; and Tewkesbury (two); to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions from Longtown, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PHARMACY (IRELAND) ACTS 1875–1890.

Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated June 9th, 1906, approving of a Regulation made by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PHARMACY (IRELAND) ACTS 1875-1890.

Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated June 9th, 1906, approving of Amended Regulations made by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland appointing the places at which Examinations for 1906 shall be held [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS ANNUAL.

Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 483 (Ashanti, Report for 1905) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS IN BRITISH COLONIES (DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE).

Copy presented, of Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to consider Mr. Rider Haggard's Report on Agricultural Settlements in British Colonies. Part I. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS IN BRITISH COLONIES (DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE).

Copy presented, of Minutes of Evidence taken before the Departmental Committee appointed to consider Mr. Rider Haggard's Report on Agricultural Settlements in British Colonies, with Appendices, Analysis, and Index. Part II. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SOUTH EASTERN AND CHATHAM RAILWAY.

Copy presented, of Report to the Board of Trade by Major John Wallace Pringle, R.E., of the Inquiry into the circumstances attending the fall of the roof of Charing Cross Station which occurred on December 5th, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3633 to 3637 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered May 29th; Mr. Dickinson]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 197.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Pembroke Dockyard—Reduction of Staff.

MR. O. C. PHILIPPS (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can now give a definite assurance that there will be no further reductions at Pembroke Dockyard (other than what may be due to natural wastage) during the financial year ending March 31st, 1907.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) In addition to the reductions which have already taken place, it will be necessary to discharge about fifty more men at Pembroke, in order to make room for that number of apprentices who complete their time during the current financial year. Beyond this, no further reduction is contemplated other than that due to natural wastage.

Navy Estimates—Armaments Vote.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state approximately, for purposes of comparison, by how much the Navy Estimates of 1906–7 would be reduced if the old arrangement, existing prior to 1888–9, still existed of charging the Vote for armaments to the Army Estimates.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The Navy Estimates for 1906–7 would be reduced by, approximately, £2,803,000 if the arrangement existing prior to 1888–9, under which provision for Naval Armaments was made in Army Votes, were revived. It may, however, be mentioned that the transfer of the cost of Naval Armaments from Army Estimates was associated with, and was partially counterbalanced by, the transfer to those Estimates of the Vote for Sea Transport (Army), previously included in the Navy Estimates. The amount voted for Army Transport services in the Navy Estimates for 1887–8 was £206,000.

Conviction of Albert Bach.

MR. THOMASSON (Leicester): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Albert Bach who, at the Middlesex Sessions on January 9th, 1904, was sentenced to seven years penal servitude for receiving goods, valued at £3 15s., knowing them to have been stolen; whether there was any other evidence of this guilty knowledge than Bach's neglect to record the purchase; whether he is aware that the police gave evidence that Bach was friendly with one Lionel Green, a convicted receiver of stolen goods, and that Bach contented and evidence was given in support of the contention that this evidence of the police was due to confusion between Lionel Green and a Mrs. Green totally unconnected with him, who lived in the same street and was an acquaintance of Bach; whether, seeing that the clerk of the peace wrote to Mrs. Bach that the chairman regretted that, having carefully inquired into the whole matter and considered the evidence adduced before him, and further information he had received, he was unable to concur in any application being made to the Secretary of State for any remission of sentence, will he say if the further information thus referred to has ever been communicated to the prisoner or his legal advisors so that he might have an opportunity of rebutting it; and whether, seeing that Bach had never before been convicted of any breach of the Law, he will take steps to reduce the sentence of seven years penal servitude passed upon this man for his first offence.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The case of Albert Bach has repeatedly been under the consideration of my predecessor and myself, and, after giving very careful attention to it, I regret that I can find no grounds for interference. I regret also that it is not possible to discuss by way of Question and Answer either the details of the evidence on which the jury arrived at their verdict or any information which the chairman may have obtained for the purpose of replying to applications from the prisoner's friends.

Belfast Valuation Return.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, if he will grant the Return standing on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Newry.†

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I am informed that the information asked for in the Return has already been given in the valuation and appeal lists issued to the Belfast Corporation, which were open to public inspection. In these circumstances I do not feel justified in authorising the expenditure which would be involved if the Return were granted.

Army Meat Contracts.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has found any difficulty in securing an adequate supply of home-fed meat, at a reasonable price, for Army requirements; what is the saving he expects to effect by permitting the supply of foreign meat to the Army; and whether he is prepared to reconsider his decision to permit the supply of foreign meat to the Army in view of the present want of confidence in foreign meat, and the serious injury that will be caused to British and Irish farmers by the threatened partial or total displacement of home-fed meat for Army use.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) There has been no difficulty in obtaining home-bred beef; but so long as there were no tenders for foreign home-killed beef, it could not be possible to say whether the price was reasonable in comparison. Further, it would not be possible to estimate the saving without obtaining tenders to the two specifications. As regards the last part of the Question I have nothing to add to my previous replies on this subject, beyond pointing out that the want of confidence mentioned applies to tinned meat and not to live cattle killed at port of entry.

Similarity between Blank and Ball Ammunition.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether any complaints have been made of the similarity in shape and general appearance between the blank rifle ammunition now issued to His Majesty's forces and the ball ammunition; whether any accidents have yet occurred through any confusion between the two; and whether, by effecting a difference either in colour or in feel he can see his way to obviate the danger of accident now existing.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The short blank rifle cartridge is quite distinct from the ball cartridge, but the long blank only differs in having its case coloured black. It has now been decided to make a groove round the case of the long blank cartridge so that it can be distinguished by feel.

Revaluation of the City of Dublin.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury why the Commissioner of Valuation in Ireland did not proceed with the revaluation of Dublin when he finished the revaluation of Belfast; whether the staff employed in the revaluation of Belfast would not have been able to deal with Dublin, a city of about the same size; whether he is aware that in the existing valuation of Dublin no account is taken of business goodwill or the value of publicans' licences; can he state the comparative valuations of Guinness's brewery, Dublin, the Bass and Company's brewery at Burton; and say why exactly the Commissioner of Valuation does not at once proceed to the revaluation of Dublin.

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† The Return was as follows:—Belfast (Valuation. Return showing the Valuations placed upon each House in Royal Avenue and Donegal Place, Belfast, at the recent re-valuation, showing (1) the Valuation fixed in first instance; (2) after the first appeal; (3) after the appeal to the Recorder.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The revaluation of Belfast, with the revisions necessary to bring it up to date, was only completed on the 6th of this month, and the Commissioner of Valuation is ready to proceed with the Dublin revaluation as soon as the necessary financial arrangements are made. The surveyors and valuers employed in Belfast were discharged some time ago, the appeal work during the past year being done by the permanent staff of the Department. Up to the present no account is taken of the value of the publicans' licences in Dublin. The valuation of Messrs. Guinness's brewery is £22,000, and I am informed that that of Messrs. Bass's breweries is £22,150.

Dock, Wharves, etc. Return.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is able to grant the Return, re docks, wharves, quays, and ships, which stands on the Order Paper for to-day.†

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I regret that I am unable to grant the Return desired by the hon. Member. As regards several of the points in the Return, e.g., (b), (c), and (e), there is no information in my possession and my Department has no means of obtaining it, while as regards others there would be considerable difficulty involved in getting out the particulars desired. Such information, however, as I am able to give the hon. Member on the different points included in the Return is set out below. (2) The number of docks, wharves, and quays in the United Kingdom recorded in the Factory Department as subject to the regulations made under Section 79 of the Factory Act is 3,067, but I am not prepared to say that this figure includes every wharf or quay on the rivers, canals, etc., of the country, however small and unimportant. (d) The number of docks, wharves, and quays visited by the factory inspectors during 1905 was 2,147, but I cannot give the number of separate visits. Many docks would be visited frequently. There is no separate record of ships visited in connection with the enforcement of the regulations. (f) and (j) The accidents in docks, wharves, and quays are not tabulated separately or classified according to cause for the purpose of the annual statistics, but some statistics were specially prepared by the Department in connection with the public inquiry two years ago into the regulations when in draft, and I shall be happy to furnish the hon. Member with these if he wishes. (g) All the gearing and plant dealt with by the Regulations are examined. (h) and (i) The work of inspection is carried out by the factory inspectors for the district in which the premises are situated, and no inspectors have been specially appointed for these duties.

Rehousing of Persons from Prospect Terrace and Derry Street, St. Pancras.

MR. P. W. WILSON (St. Pancras, S.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the dishousing of persons who reside at Prospect Terrace and Derry Street as tenants of the St. Pancras Borough Council; whether any arrangements have been made for rehousing these people at a reasonable rent; and, if not, whether he can take any steps to secure that such arrangements shall be undertaken without delay.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am aware that in connection with a Scheme made under Part II. of The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, the borough council of St. Pancras are displacing certain persons of the working class who reside at Prospect Terrace and Derry Street. The Order of the Local Government Board sanctioning the scheme required that housing accommodation for 213 persons should be provided in respect of these displacements on a site in Great College Street, and I understand that this accommodation has been provided. The Order further provides that not more than half of the area shall be cleared until provision has been made for housing seventy-two persons on that area. It does not appear to me that the Board can do anything further in the matter.

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† Return showing—(a) The number of Docks, Wharves, and Quays there are in the United Kingdom; (b) The length of working Quays; (c) The number of Ships worked, and tonnage handled; (d) The number of visits paid, during the working time, by the Factory Inspectors to Docks, Wharves, Quays, and Ships; (e) The aggregate number of men employed aboard working Craft and Quays; (f) The number of Accidents, general and fatal, aboard Ship or working overside to Quay; (g) What gears and working plant examined on Docks, Wharves, Quays, and Ships; (h) The number of Factory Inspectors allocated to inspection of Docks, Wharves, Quays, and Ships; (i) What qualification determines the appointment of Inspectors to Docks, Wharves, Quays, and Ships; (j) The number of Accidents in consequence of defective and unsafe ladders in holds of vessels.

Pensions for Lighting and Ventilating Staff of Houses of Parliament.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): To ask the First Commissioner of Works if he will state the number of men employed in the lighting and ventilating department of His Majesty's Office of Works who are qualified to receive a pension on retirement; whether any of the employees are not so qualified; if so, how many, and what is the reason for placing them on a different footing to the remaining portion of the staff.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) There are seventy-four men employed in the lighting and ventilating department at the Houses of Parliament; none of them are qualified to receive a pension on retirement.

Imports of Colonial and Foreign Plain Spirits for Industrial Purposes.

MR. CLARK (Camberwell, Peckham): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state how he intends Sub-section (1) of Section 1 of The Revenue Bill, 1906, to affect Colonial and Foreign plain spirits when imported for use in art and manufacture, or for making industrial methylated spirits; seeing that the surtax, if imposed, after the passing of the Revenue Bill, would act as a protective duty pure and simple.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) Under the sub-section in question, it is proposed to pay the same allowance on Colonial or Foreign plain spirits, when used for industrial purposes, as will be paid in the case of plain British spirits, viz. 3d. per proof gallon. The relative position of these spirits will, therefore, be the same when used for industrial purposes as when used for any other purpose.

Indian Railway Construction—Line through Cutch.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that the Government of India, in their programme of railway construction for the year 1905–6, included an allotment of six lakhs for a line from Viramgam to Malia, which forms part of a projected connection with Sind through Cutch; and, in view of the fact that the Cutchi inhabitants of Bombay, the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, and the Municipality of Hyderabad, have sent forward petitions urging that in the public interest the line should pass through Cutch, will he state whether the objections raised by the Rao of Cutch have yet been considered; and, if so, with what result.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The estimates for the construction of the Viramgam-Malia line were sanctioned by the Secretary of State last year, and an allotment was, as stated in the Question, included in the programme for 1905–6, but no expenditure was incurred on it during that year. The allotment for the Bombay-Sind connection in the railway programme for 1906–7 is three lakhs. As I stated in reply to a Question on 2nd May last,† a reconnaissance of alternative routes to the north and south of the Runn has been sanctioned. I understand that when this reconnaissance has been carried out, the question of the route will be considered.

Judicial and Executive Functions in the Baroda States.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the fact that, as reported in the last Administration Report of the Baroda State, the complete separation of judicial from executive functions has been effected without any practical difficulty in that State; and whether he will bear what has been done in that State in mind in considering the long pending memorial from the late Lord Hobhouse and others urging the separation of the exercise of these functions by the same officer in the advanced districts of British India.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 543.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I understand that the change of system referred to in the Question was introduced in the Baroda State only a year ago. When the time comes, it will of course be impossible to overlook the working of the experiment there in arriving at the conclusions upon the memorial mentioned in the Question.

Government Maintenance of Indian Garrison Churches.

MR. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): To ask the Secretary of State for India how many churches in India, for the use of troops, have been built either wholly or partly out of funds provided by the Government, respectively, or upon land provided by the Government; how many such churches are maintained either wholly or partly out of funds provided by the Government; in how many cases such churches are, owing to consecration, either not available, or only available with the consent of a bishop, for the free use of all troops of any denomination for the time being stationed where such churches are; whether any person, other than the Secretary of State, can prevent the equal use of any such church by troops of any denomination; and whether he will take measures to prevent any such exclusion in future; or if in the circumstances of any case that is not feasible, whether he will in future refuse any grant of public money to any church which is not equally available for troops of any religious denomination.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I am unable, without reference to the Government of India, to give the statistics asked for. The effect of consecration is fully explained in the Papers presented to Parliament in 1900 (Cd. Paper 129); it makes the consent of the bishop necessary for the use of the church by any denomination other than Anglicans. As regards the future, measures have been already taken to prevent inconvenience arising from consecration, as I explained in my Answer on the 21st May to the Question (No. 63) of the hon. Member for Roxburghshire.† Churches built wholly or partially at the public expense are not allowed to be consecrated except where separate provision exists for other than Anglican services; and, being unconsecrated, are available for use by all denominations.

Murder of Coolie Sahiya at Jullundur.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will cause some inquiry to be made in regard to the alleged murder in May last of a punkha cooly named Sahiya by a British gunner at Jullundur, Lahore.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have already addressed an inquiry to the Government of India, as I undertook to do in my Answer to a Question on the 30th ultimo.‡

Eviction of William Ryan at Ballinaguile.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether the Estates Commissioners have made any inquiries into the case of William Ryan, who was evicted in the year 1887 from his farm containing 100 acres at Ballinaguile, Croagh, in the county of Limerick, by the landlord, Colonel R. Conway; and, if not, will they do so with a view to reinstating the evicted tenant.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have received an application on behalf of William Ryan for reinstatement, and will have the case inquired into in due course.

Evicting of Owen Sheehy at Ballinaguile.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether it is the intention of the Estates Commissioners to send down an inspector to inquire into the case of Owen Sheehy, who was evicted from his farm at Ballinaguile, Croagh, in the county of Limerick, containing forty-six acres, by the landlord, Colonel R. Conway, with the view to bringing about his reinstatement.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners propose to send an inspector at as early a date as practicable to inquire into the cases of all evicted tenants, including Owen Sheehy, in the district in question.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 929, 930.

‡ See Col. 409.

Reinstatement of John Sheehy of Raheen.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether the Estates Commissioners have yet done anything to bring about the reinstatement of John Sheehy, who was evicted in the year 1884 from his farm at Raheen, Croagh, in the county of Limerick, by the landlord, Colonel R. Conway; and, if not, will they at once do so.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The answer given to the preceding Question applies to this case also.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether the Estates Commissioners have taken any action in reference to the reinstatement of John Sheehy, of Raheen, Croagh, in the county of Limerick, who was evicted in the year 1884 by the landlord, S. Dickson; and, if not, whether they will negotiate with the landlord to have him reinstated.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that no steps for the reinstatement of John Sheehy have yet been taken, but that his case will be duly inquired into by an inspector with the view of effecting a settlement.

Irish National School Teachers' Pension Fund.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what was the actual expenditure for the last financial year in connection with the National School teachers' pension fuud.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I am informed that the expenditure in question was £71,333 6s. 4d.

Military Bands for Entertainments.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state under what circumstances military bands are permitted to compete with civilian bands for engagements at entertainments in districts where they are stationed; and what is the object of such competition.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The orders issued by the Army Council enjoin that military bands are not to seek for or take up engagements through the medium of musical or other agents, or through the press, and that no engagement should be accepted on terms which are less than those which would in the same circumstances be offered to other than military bands. They are thus prevented from entering into competition with civilian bands for engagements.

Proportion of Artillery to other Arms of the Service.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the present proportion of regular field and horse artillery guns available for service per 1,000 sabres and rifles of the regular Army, Militia, and Volunteers.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) According to our present war organisation, as laid down in War Establishments, the proportion of field and horse artillery guns to sabres and bayonets in an organised field force is about one to 200, or, approximately, five per 1,000. If, on mobilisation, all the regular batteries in the United Kingdom could be used as batteries, the proportion of guns to the mobilised war strength of the regular cavalry and infantry units available for service would be somewhat higher than indicated above. But under the existing arrangements the personnel of a large number of these batteries would have to be employed for the formation of ammunition columns. No regular batteries have, so far, ever been provided for service with the Militia or the Volunteers.

Lancashire Militia Field Artillery Brigade.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER:- To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the number of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men respectively, in the Lancashire Militia Field Artillery Brigade who are serving or have served in the Regular Army.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The figures are as follows:—

	Belonging to Regular Army.	Who have served in Regular Army.
Officers - - - - - - - - -	3	1
Warrant officers - - - - - - -	1	—
Non-commissioned officers - - - -	36	4
Trumpeters - - - - - - - -	6	—
Gunners, &c. - - - - - - -	76	30

Weekly Payment of Army Pensions.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Henley): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is yet able to say that the system of payment of Army pensions will be changed, so as to enable retired soldiers to receive their pensions by weekly instalments.

Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.) The question is still under consideration.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

H.M.S. "Assistance."

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what is the estimated cost of the salvage and repairs of H.M.S. "Assistance;" whether the coal expenditure and other costs incurred by warships rendering aid are included; and whether H.M.S. "Assistance" is to be supplied with stronger ground tackle.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The estimated cost of the salvage and repairs to the "Assistance" is £70,000. The cost of coal, etc., expended by other ships of the Fleet in rendering aid cannot be calculated separately, and is not included in this Estimate. As regards the last part of the Question, no material change is being made in the anchor equipment of the "Assistance."

Navy Provision Contracts.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty have any contracts or agreements with Chicago firms or agents of Chicago firms by which these firms undertake to maintain stocks of provisions for the use of the Royal Navy in war.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Answer is in the negative.

Naval Shipbuilding.

MR. COWAN (Surrey, Guildford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Government have decided not to build one of the battleships mentioned in this year's Navy Estimates.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I have nothing to add to my reply to a similar Question asked by the hon. Member for Fareham on Tuesday last.†

Stobs Camp.

SIR J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the arrangements to change mixed farms into pasture at Stobs Camp, in order to facilitate manœuvres of troops, and the consequent change of three farms into one, were made before or after he assumed office.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddingtonshire): The arrangements mentioned were made before I took up office as Secretary of State for War.

Vaccination of Government Workmen.

MR. BRANCH (Middlesex, Enfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to a protest by the workmen engaged at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield Lock, against compulsory vaccination as a condition of employment there; and whether, seeing that the workers regard such a condition as contracting themselves out of their rights as citizens, he will take steps to abolish this condition of their employment.

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† See Cols. 812, 813.

MR. HALDANE: The question was raised in March last at an interview between the Secretary to the Employees' Union and the Chief Superintendent of the Ordnance Factories. I am not prepared to depart from the decisions of my predecessors not to admit men to the various Ordnance Factories unless they consent to be vaccinated.

MR. BRANCH asked whether insistence on vaccination had not been followed by serious results to individual workers.

MR. HALDANE did not think serious results had followed. Wherever there was a large body of men working together the case seemed to be that risks might result from not insisting upon vaccination.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) asked whether the Secretary for War would examine the Army medical records and ascertain whether they would not show that there had been over a certain period of years a thousand cases of small-pox, a hundred of them fatal, in carefully re-vaccinated troops.

MR. HALDANE: I think the hon. Member must give me notice of that Question if he wants a definite Answer to it.

Military Police.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will appoint a Committee to inquire into the appointment of privates and non-commissioned officers to the military police, and also into the manner in which that body performs its duties, with a view to its thorough reorganisation on different lines, in view of the manner in which some of its members behave toward soldiers.

In putting the question the hon. Member asked whether the Speaker had authorised the alteration of the Question, and whether the Clerks at the Table had power to sub-edit Questions put in by hon. Members.

*MR. SPEAKER: I have not seen the Question in its original form. Certainly the Clerks at the Table have full power to sub-edit any Questions brought to them. If any necessity arises I shall be glad to consider any Question myself, but with the duties which are imposed upon me by the House it would be practically impossible for me to revise all the Questions brought to the Table.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): Should the Clerks at the Table not inform an hon. Member whose Question is altered so that he might have an opportunity of seeing it before it is placed on the Paper?

*MR. SPEAKER: The Clerks always endeavour to do so. If an hon. Member has left the House, it is not easy to get into communication with him, but if he is in the House, they take every possible means of getting into communication with him.

MR. MORTON: But, Sir, I never leave the House.

MR. LEA: I was certainly in the House yesterday and the day before, when I put down the Question, and I had no notification that the Clerks desired a change.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member places me at a great disadvantage. This Question must have been on the Paper for some days. If he had a complaint to make, why did he not come to me?

MR. HALDANE, answering the Question, said men were carefully selected for the military police. No complaints had been received of the manner in which they performed those duties. He saw no reason for appointing a Committee of Inquiry.

Preserved Meats for the Army.

*DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any of the current Army contracts are held by British makers of canned or preserved meats; whether any of these contractors are firms whose articles were condemned during the South African War; whether there is any inspection into the quality and soundness of the materials used during their manufacture; if so, is the inspector a medical man holding a public health diploma or is he a military man.

MR. HALDANE: No Army contracts for tinned meat are held by British makers at present. Whenever a contract for preserved meat is held by a British firm surprise visits to the works are paid by Army officers, and samples are submitted to a Government analyst. These Army officers hold certificates from the Birkenhead Medical Officer of Health and some from the Royal Sanitary Institute, the latter being similar to those held by inspectors employed under the Local Government Board.

MR. LEA asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would cause a trained Army officer to pay surprise visits and take other precautions to ensure good quality.

*DR. COOPER asked whether the inspector should not be a trained veterinary inspector and expert in meat, or a medical man holding a diploma of public health.

MR. HALDANE thought the hon. Member did not appreciate the kind of training that these Army service medical officers had. They were trained for this very purpose, and there were several certificates which they had to obtain. One was the Birkenhead certificate. Another certificate was that of the Metropolitan Meat Market. Colonel Hobbs, who had gone out to inspect the stockyards, not only held that, but had had practice in judging meat for some years.

*DR. COOPER asked whether the Secretary of State had made himself acquainted with the nature of these two examinations and whether they were not very perfunctory.

MR. HALDANE said he was informed that the examinations for some of these certificates, particularly that of the Sanitary Institute, were very searching indeed.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would ascertain the value of the tinned meat and other provisions supplied, not by American, but by British contractors during the late war.

[No Answer was returned.]

2nd Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that the 2nd Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment, at present quartered at Holywood, near Belfast, is almost entirely recruited in Yorkshire, that this battalion has not since its return from foreign service been quartered in Yorkshire, and that it is now under orders to move to Aldershot next spring, he will say whether at the end of its time at Aldershot it will again be due to go abroad; and whether, in view of the fact that other Yorkshire battalions have been for more than one period of their time of home service quartered at York, he will be able to give to this battalion the same privilege at an early date, or at any rate before they go again on foreign service.

MR. HALDANE: This battalion will probably go on foreign service shortly after the end of its time at Aldershot, but on leaving Aldershot an effort will be made to quarter it in the north of England before going abroad. It must be remembered that there are only two infantry stations in the north of England for eighteen regiments who have claims to be quartered there, and that it is therefore impossible to ensure for all northern regiments home service in the vicinity of their territorial districts.

MR. LANE-FOX pointed out that the regiment had not been quartered in Yorkshire for over twenty years.

Abbotsham Rifle Range.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the rifle range at Abbotsham, near Bideford, has been closed by the War Office on the ground that it is situated too close to property owned by Mr. Wingate; that the adjutant of the 4th Volunteer Battalion Devon Regiment and the

District Inspector of Musketry inspected the range and passed it as safe and suitable some five years ago, and that consequently considerable expense was incurred in the erection of targets and other paraphernalia of the range; whether he is aware that the local companies will be put to expense in acquiring a new range or arranging for a temporary one; and whether, having regard to the desirability of encouraging the Volunteer system, he will give such financial assistance as may be necessary to enable the local companies to obtain another range.

MR. HALDANE: This range was approved by the War Office on condition that the Officer Commanding the 4th Volunteer Battalion Devonshire Regiment obtained a lease or permission for firing rights over the range and danger area, then owned by one person. The lease, however, was never made, and subsequently to the establishment of the range Mr. Wingate acquired a portion of the land, the boundary of which is within about twenty yards of the targets. As this distance was not considered safe, and as he objected to firing under these conditions, the range had to be closed. It is regretted that there is no money available for the financial assistance of the corps suggested in the Question.

MR. SOARES: Was it not the duty of the War Office to see that the lease was obtained before expense was incurred?

MR. HALDANE: I think not. Permission was only given on the condition that the lease was obtained.

Salisbury Plain Barracks.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary whether any of the barracks recently of State for War erected on Salisbury Plain are unprovided with hot and cold baths for the use of the soldiers; and, if so, will he give orders for this provision to be taken in hand at once by the military authorities.

MR. HALDANE: Assuming that Tidworth Barracks are intended, a bath-house, with hot and cold baths has been provided in the Aliwal Barracks. This was of an experimental nature, and the building of bath-houses for the rest of the barracks at Tidworth has now been commenced.

Lighting of Barracks.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether there are any barracks in Great Britain which are still unlit by incandescent burners where gas is the illuminant; if so, what would be the cost of substituting incandescent light in those barracks; and whether he can carry out this reform to add to the comfort of our soldiers this year.

MR. HALDANE: There are many gas-lit barracks still so unprovided with incandescent burners, but the work of substitution is proceeding as rapidly as funds will allow. It is estimated that to complete the work will cost about £9,000 beyond the funds already voted. I am afraid, therefore, that it will not be possible to complete the work during the current year.

MR. LEA: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman bring in a Supplementary Estimate this year?

MR. HALDANE: I am in a difficulty, for the House is continually asking me to keep down the expenditure.

Execution of a Reprieved Prisoner in Bengal.

*SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Tyneside Division of Northumberland, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that in a recent case in which a capital sentence had been passed, a prisoner prayed to the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam for mercy or, as an alternative, for the transmission of his memorial to the Governor-General in Council; that the Lieutenant-Governor rejected the prayer and forwarded the memorial to the Governor-General in Council, but ordered the man's execution; that the Governor-General in Council telegraphed staying the execution, but too late, as the man had already been executed; and whether he will make inquiries into the facts of this case, and prescribe rules which shall prevent the occurrence of any such incidents in future.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I find it difficult to believe that the facts are as stated in the Question, but if they are they amount to an enormity. I will therefore request my hon. friend to furnish me with the date of the case and the name of the prisoner, and I will immediately telegraph to the Government of India.

Prosecutions of Indian Schoolboys.

*SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the circumstances of a case in which the sub-divisional officer of Munshigunge, in the newly-established province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, has fined two schoolboys Rs.500 and Rs.150 respectively, and has awarded thirty stripes each to two other boys, for obstructing a constable in the alleged discharge of his duties, and also to the judgment of the magistrate in the case, which describes the offences as not very serious, and, while exonerating the boys from any bad motive and questioning the propriety of the constable's action, justifies the severity of the sentence on the ground that the prevailing spirit all around requires to be curbed in such a manner as to prove a sound lesson to the accused and a warning to their class; and whether, having regard to the frequency of schoolboy prosecutions in Bengal and to the feelings which this policy is arousing in the new province, he will issue instructions to refrain from schoolboy prosecutions, as far as possible, in future.

MR. MORLEY: I have seen a report of the magistrate's judgment in the case to which the hon. Gentleman refers. While giving weight to the points which were in favour of the accused persons the magistrate, who was a Bengali Hindu gentleman, stated that he was unable to overlook the fact that it was no business of theirs to interfere in matters that were not within their province. If the sentences were considered too severe it was open to the accused to move the Courts to reduce the fines. The case occurred three months ago, and as I have no reason to suppose that schoolboy prosecutions are or are likely to become frequent, I see no necessity to issue any instructions on the subject.

*SIR H. COTTON: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he will be prepared to give facilities in procuring a Return which I have asked for, regarding these schoolboy prosecutions?

MR. MORLEY promised to consider if he could grant a Return of these cases.

Public Meetings and Processions in India.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he can assure the House that the circular issued on 12th May by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, signed by Mr. Lyon, the Chief Secretary, restores the liberty that the people of the province possessed of public processions and public meetings; and whether he can assure the House that Swadeshi meetings, public or private, are in no danger of interference by the local officials or police.

MR. MORLEY: I stated in reply to a Question on the 24th of May † that the Lieutenant-Governor had withdrawn all restrictions on processions and public meetings imposed by previous orders; and the only restrictions that now remain are those imposed by the ordinary law, which gives to the district police authorities the duty of regulating and licensing public assemblies and processions. These powers will only be used to stay actual or imminent breach of the peace.

MR. O'GRADY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the effect of the issue of this circular has been to create a bitter feeling between the Mahommedan and Buddhist people?

[No Answer was returned.]

Outrages by British Soldiers in India.

MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to a case in which two soldiers on the road to Simla demanded some soda water from a native, and that they were duly supplied with what they wanted, but that when payment was demanded one of the soldiers raised his rifle and shot the native in the chest, the bullet passing out of his back; and whether, having regard to the frequency of these incidents in India, this case being the fifth of its kind during the present year, he will address the Government of India with a view to taking stringent measures to prevent their recurrence.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 1413.

MR. LEA: May I be permitted, Sir, before the Question is answered, to enter a protest against the wording of the Question?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member may ask a Question.

MR. LEA: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, considering that there are 80,000 white soldiers in India, even it be true that there have been five cases of shooting during the year, he thinks that justifies putting the Question in this way?

MR. MORLEY: I rather sympathise with what has fallen from the hon. Gentleman behind me. I have no information as to the case stated in the Question, but if the hon. Member who put the Question will give me the necessary information, I will make inquiries.

MR. O'GRADY: Am I to understand that the Government are in sympathy with the shooting of black people in this way?

MR. MORLEY: I cannot think that that is a Question I can be expected to answer.

MR. O'GRADY: Is it the fact that four cases have already been proved to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State for India?

*SIR H. COTTON: There is a report of this case in the Indian newspapers by this mail.

MR. MORLEY: Need I say that if these cases are accurately reported, and some, I am afraid, have been accurately reported, I will at once give them my most prompt and earnest attention? Nobody has a more complete detestation of such acts than I have.

MR. O'GRADY: The effect of the right hon. Gentleman's Answer has been to indicate some kind of approval of this procedure. That is the effect of the right hon. Gentleman's Answer. It bore that interpretation.

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries.

SIR J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies why the assent of the Legislative Council of Ceylon was required to the twenty years lease of the Government pearl fisheries at an annual rent of £20,660; whether he is aware that the Legislative Council was not allowed to discuss the terms of the lease at their session of February 14th, 1906; whether he is aware that the Ceylon Government share of the fishery of the year 1905 was £150,000 net; and will he say what was the net value of the fishery of the year 1906; and whether that value goes to the company.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): As regards the first two Questions, I would refer my hon. friend to Mr. Lyttelton's despatch of December 1st, 1905, and the Secretary of State's despatch of the 9th ultimo (Nos. 24 and 30 in Cd. 2906) and also to my reply to a Question put by him in the House on April 2nd last.† The answer to the third Question is in the affirmative. The net value of this year's fishery, after allowing for the expenses of management, is approximately Rs.1,125,000 (£75,000), and of this, as far as can be calculated at present, the company will receive, after deduction of the various payments specified in the lease, about Rs.484,000 (£32,267).

SIR J. JARDINE asked why the Legislative Council was asked to pass a law approving of the lease, and then refused permission to discuss any single detail thereof.

MR. CHURCHILL: The reasons why the Government adopted the procedure they did are fully set out in the Blue-book which has lately been presented to Parliament, and if my hon. friend will consult that I think he will find it was held by Mr. Lyttelton that it would be difficult for the Council to go into every detail in the lease, and that it would be better either to accept or reject it as a whole.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 165, 166.

Whether that was a desirable thing or not I do not desire to express a decided opinion.

SIR J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether in the negotiations with Mr. Lyttelton, between December, 1904, and January, 1906, about the lease of the Ceylon pearl fisheries, Sir J. W. Ridgeway acted at any time on behalf of the Government of Ceylon or the people of Ceylon, or solely on behalf of the Gulf Syndicate and the Ceylon Company of Pearl Fishers; whether he is aware that the capital of the syndicate was nominally £10,000, of which £1,687 10s. was called up, and that the Gulf Syndicate sold the concession, after expending £200 as cost of obtaining the concession, £106 as cost of registration, and £110 as preliminary expenses, to the Ceylon Company of Pearl Fishers for £11,000; and whether, before the twenty years lease was conceded, any intimation had been given by the authorities to the commercial centres of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Rangoon, and Singapore, of the intention to lease the Ceylon Government pearl fisheries.

MR. CHURCHILL: Sir J. W. Ridgeway did not act at any time on behalf of the Government or people of Ceylon. There appears to be no information available in the Colonial Office concerning the financial transactions mentioned by my hon. friend, and as regards his last Question, I would refer him to the Answer which I gave him on April 9th.†

*MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): Arising out of that Answer, may I ask why the Government did not cause information as to the expiration of the old lease, and the proposal to grant a new twenty years lease, to be given and tenders to be asked for from the Scotch firms, which have had such a large share in the development of the resources of India and Ceylon.

MR. CHURCHILL: I believe there is some possibility—I do not know whether it amounts to a probability—of Mr. Lyttelton again becoming a Member of this House. He is much more capable of giving the hon. Gentleman the explanation he desires than I am. I confess I have formed views somewhat different from those which appear to have actuated Mr. Lyttelton throughout the arrangements connected with the lease—views which have become more adverse the more I have had to deal with the matter.

MR. COWAN: May I ask the hon. Gentleman whether he is aware that Sir J. W. Ridgeway is Chairman of the Ceylon Company of Pearl Fishers, and that he holds 1,000 ordinary and 1,600 deferred shares in that company, and that the deferred shares, which are of the nominal value of 1s., are selling at from 10s. to 12s. each.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must give notice of that Question.

SIR J. JARDINE: May I ask why the information was given to Sir W. J. Ridgeway and the capitalists, and not to the Scotch or Indian firms?

MR. CHURCHILL: I think there are grave objections to the procedure which was followed, and that the result has not been at all satisfactory.

Native Disturbances in Natal.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state how many outrages, causing death or personal injury to Europeans, had been committed by the natives in Natal during the twelve months preceding the attempt on the part of the Natal authorities to enforce payment of the poll tax; and whether this Government, in view of the loss of life, both native and white, occasioned by the pursuit of the natives, will take any steps to put an end to the conflict.

MR. CHURCHILL: There is no information in the Colonial Office as to outrages by natives on Europeans in Natal during the period referred to. It is not true that the poll tax has been the only, or indeed the principal, cause of the present native troubles. The tax is levied on about 115,000 persons, of whom about 30,000 are Europeans, 25,000 Indians and 60,000 natives of Natal, mostly young unmarried men working in the European settlements and not assessable to the hut tax. The collection appears to be proceeding smoothly in all parts of the country outside the limited districts affected by the Bambata rebellion, and all except about £15,000 has already been received at the Treasury. His Majesty's Government would welcome the termination of native disturbances in Natal. But it is obvious that the only possible end to the conflict must be found in the restoration of peace and order, for which the Colonial Government are responsible.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 986, 987.

Repatriation of Chinese Coolies.

*MR. LEHMANN (Leicestershire, Market Harborough): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what steps are being taken to carry out the pledges given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, to annul or repeal or amend the Chinese Labour Ordinance, so as to prevent the new Transvaal Government from inheriting the present Ordinance and from finding in force all its powers, and especially the power of re-enlisting or detaining, under the conditions of that Ordinance, the coolies now in the Transvaal.

MR. CHURCHILL: I would refer my hon. friend to my Answer given yesterday to the hon. Member for Ashton-under-Lyne.†

*MR. LEHMANN: What will be the practical effect on the coolies still serving supposing a date is fixed during the period their indentures are still in force?

MR. CHURCHILL: I thought I had made it clear that when the Transvaal received responsible government a date would be fixed for the order to lapse, and the powers under which Chinese coolies are imported will cease unless in the meantime another Ordinance is introduced which does not present the same objection to His Majesty's Government.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: And when will the Transvaal get responsible government?

MR. CHURCHILL was understood to say he hoped to make an announcement on that subject in five or six weeks time.

*MR. LEHMANN: Can the right hon. Gentleman now indicate the date to be fixed for the termination of the Ordinance?

MR. CHURCHILL: I can add nothing to my Answer.

Congo Free State.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to that part of the open letter from the King of the Belgians to the secretaries of the Congo Reform Committee in which he says that no Power has the right of intervention in the Congo Free State, that nothing could justify any intervention, and that his rights in the Congo are personal and indivisible; whether His Majesty's Government are prepared to accept these statements of the case; and, if not, whether they will protest, either alone or in conjunction with the other Powers.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): I am not sure what is meant by personal and indivisible rights. We have recognised the independence of the Congo State, and the rights of intervention which we have are those of seeing that treaty obligations are observed. These cannot be affected by subsequent declarations on the part of the Sovereign of the Congo State, and the letter in question cannot alter them.

MR. WEDGWOOD: Do His Majesty's Government intend to tell the King of the Belgians that?

SIR EDWARD GREY: No, Sir. I do not see any necessity for making any communication.

Anhui Mining Contract.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if His Majesty's Government have received a reply in writing to the repeated representations which were made by His Majesty's Minister at Peking to the Chinese Government, urging that the Anhui Mining Contract should be recognised as still valid and binding; is he aware of the loss that has been occasioned during the thirteen months to the promoters by this infraction of the Mackay Treaty; whether he will consider the advisability, as a matter of policy, of avoiding submission to such a violation of the legally acquired right of His Majesty's subjects; and that pending the re-affirmation of the contract, would His Majesty's Minister be instructed to demand the necessary permission to enable mining operations to be provisionally proceeded with.

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† See col. 953.

SIR EDWARD GREY: No written reply has yet been received from the Chinese Government to the representations which have been made to them with regard to the Anhui Mining Contract, the continued validity of which is disputed by the Chinese authorities. The efforts of His Majesty's Legation have already been directed to obtaining permission for the promoters of the scheme to commence operations, but so far without success. Those efforts are being continued, and I am unable to make any further statement on the subject at present.

Detention of the Steamship "Briardale" at Genoa.

MR. CAIRNS (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the British steamer "Briardale" is still detained at Genoa, that the total period of detention is now fifteen months, and that the Italian courts still refuse to release the vessel upon the provision of adequate bail; and whether His Majesty's Government will make strong representations to the Italian Government with a view to procuring the acceptance of bail as customary in all other countries and so effecting the release of the vessel without in any way prejudicing the rights of the Italian claimants.

SIR EDWARD GREY: As my hon. friend is aware, His Majesty's Government have made urgent representations to the Italian Government in regard to the general principle involved in the treatment of this case by the Italian courts, but they cannot undertake to endeavour to influence these courts on a purely legal issue such as that of the conditions to be attached to the acceptance of bail.

MR. CAIRNS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that in a recent judgment of the court of appeal at Genoa, in the case of the British steamship "Briardale," the principle has been laid down that an Italian subject, having a private claim against one shareholder in a British vessel, can arrest the entire ship, and thus inflict heavy loss upon the other shareholders; and what steps His Majesty's Government propose to take, having regard to the effect the admission of this principle will have upon British shipping.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. His Majesty's Government have represented to the Italian Government that the maintenance of this principle will be most prejudicial to the commercial relations between the two countries.

Admission of Anarchists.

SIR W. EVANS-GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in the event of persons known to be anarchists arriving as immigrants in this country, the plea that they are political refugees is accepted as entitling them to admission.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): The Aliens Act makes no provision for the exclusion of anarchists, as such. Further, the question of political refugeeism does not arise unless the immigrant has no means or prospect of means of decently supporting himself. When it does arise, it can only be settled according to the facts of the particular case, and does not admit of a general answer.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): Can the right hon. Gentleman give a definition of an anarchist?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I certainly cannot.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): Does not the chief danger to society arise from persons who are not known to be anarchists?

[No Answer was returned.]

Anarchist Propaganda and the London Police.

SIR W. EVANS-GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware of the extent to which the anarchist propaganda is being carried on in London by means of journals and other publications, wherein murder is openly advocated and murderers are extolled and held up as examples for imitation; and, if so, what steps the Government propose to take to bring the persons responsible for these publications to justice.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The extent of the anarchist propaganda in the Metropolis is not considerable. The police keep themselves fully acquainted with the contents of all publications of the nature referred to in the Question, and will be prepared to take action again, as they have taken action in the past, should the published matter show grounds for criminal prosecution.

Expulsions of Aliens.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 105 orders which he has made for the expulsion of aliens have been acted on: whether the aliens have been in fact deported in each case; and whether any difficulties have arisen with the countries affected as to receiving these expelled aliens.

*MR. GLADSTONE: In fifty-one cases steps were taken to deport the alien; of the other aliens who were left to find their own way out of the country, some are known to have gone, and if any are found in this country they will be arrested and punished as rogues and vagabonds. No country has, to my knowledge, refused to receive its own nationals when expelled from these shores, but there is sometimes a difficulty in establishing nationality.

Dangerous Performances.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the death of Miss Cove when descending from a balloon in a parachute on June 11th; and whether he proposes to take any steps to prohibit such exhibitions in the future.

*MR. GLADSTONE: My attention has been called to this shocking case. I have prepared, and hope to introduce shortly, a Bill extending the Dangerous Performances Acts to all women, whatever their age may be.

Vaccination Exemption Orders.

MR. W. H. DAVIES (Bristol, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the case of A. E. Athersuch, of 24, Sion Hill, Clifton, who has been twice refused a vaccination exemption order by the Bristol magistrates; and whether he will call their attention to the provisions of the Act of Parliament under which exemption orders for vaccination are granted.

*MR. GLADSTONE: My attention has not been called to this case; but a circular has very recently been sent to justices drawing attention to the principles which I am advised should guide them in dealing with applications for certificates of exemption.

Potted Foods—Inspection of Factories.

DR. COOPER: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether there is any Local Government Order, or regulation, or by-law, requiring the makers of sausages, brawn, potted meats and paste, meat pies, &c., or of similar articles of food, to register their premises with any public authority, or which limits the hours of their manufacture to the hours inspectors are by legal custom allowed to enter, viz., 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): The Answer is in the negative. The Local Government Board have no power to make any such requirement as that suggested.

Vaccination.

MR. LUPTON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will request the various medical officers of health throughout the country to ascertain the vaccinal conditions of all small-pox patients, not merely by verbal inquiries, or by examination for marks of vaccination, but also by examination of the registers to ascertain if the patient has been registered as vaccinated.

MR. JOHN BURNS: Such an examination of the Vaccination Registers as that suggested would involve considerable trouble and some expense, and in a great many cases it would be impracticable. The majority of small-pox patients are adults whose vaccination, if any, took place at a remote and uncertain date, and often in another and perhaps distant place, many of these patients being persons of vagrant habits. It forms no part of the duty of the medical officers of health to make the proposed examination, and I do not feel that I could ask them to undertake it.

MR. LUPTON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if it is a practice in the small-pox hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and of authorities in charge of small-pox hospitals throughout the country, and of medical officers of health, in reference to small-pox patients, to have the vaccination registers searched in order to ascertain authoritatively the vaccinal conditions of small-pox patients.

MR. JOHN BURNS: No, Sir, I believe not.

MR. LUPTON: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Metropolitan Asylums Board publishes statistics as to the conditions of the patients?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I will inquire.

Re-vaccination Registrations.

MR. LUPTON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if it is the practice for all vaccinations at all ages, and re-vaccinations, to be registered in public registers, and, if not, if he will direct that all re-vaccinations performed at the public expense shall be entered in a register, and if he will also address a request to private practitioners to cause all cases of re-vaccination, which are not at the public expense, and of primary vaccination, where not previously registered to be registered.

MR. JOHN BURNS: Every public vaccinator is required to enter in his Vaccinator's Register all vaccinations and re vaccinations performed by him at the public expense. It would be advantageous if private medical practitioners kept similar records, but I have no authority to ask them to do this. Every medical man, however, whether a public vaccinator or not, is required by the Vaccination Acts to give a certificate of the vaccination of any child successfully vaccinated by him. The certificate has to be sent to the Vaccination Officer for entry in the Register kept by that officer.

The Unemployment Bill.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the recommendation contained in the Report of the Central Unemployed Committee for London that no time should be lost in bringing before Parliament supplementary legislation, as promised in His Majesty's speech, he is now in a position to say when his proposals will be introduced.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I hope to be in a position to make a definite statement on this subject shortly.

Local Distress Committee's Report.

MR ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he would state the number of Reports requested, also the number received from the local distress committees *re* the administration of the Unemployed Act, 1905; if he proposes to lay any of these Reports upon the Table of the House; and whether he can inform the House when the Unemployed Bill will be introduced.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The Central (Unemployed) Body for London were asked to make a Report, and application was made to each of the eighty-nine Distress Committees in England and Wales, outside London, for returns as to their receipts and expenditure and as to their proceedings in various matters. They were also asked to send a copy of any Report presented to or by the Committee as to the operation of the Act within their area. Returns have been received from eighty of the Committees, and in sixteen cases these are accompanied by copies of more detailed Reports. As soon as all the Returns and Reports have been examined, I will determine as to the course to be taken as to laying information on the Table. As regards the last part of the Question, I would refer to the Answer I have just given to the hon. Member for Bethnal Green.

Universal Penny Postage.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether the British delegates to the Postal Conference at Rome opposed the proposal which was made by the delegates from New Zealand, and supported by the delegates from the United States, in favour of a universal penny postage for letters; and whether this House will have an opportunity of expressing an opinion as to that opposition.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): His Majesty's Government were not in a position to support the proposal for universal penny postage for letters, and the British delegates to the recent Postal Congress at Rome were instructed accordingly, and they abstained from voting on the proposal. The House will have an opportunity of discussing this, or any other postal question, on the Post Office Estimates.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): Will the right hon. Gentleman take care that the House has an opportunity of discussing this question on the estimates?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Personally I have no control over the debate, but I hope there will be full opportunity.

MR. MORTON: Ought not this House to be consulted before the delegates commit it in any way?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That is a matter of opinion.

West Indian Mail Service.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that inconvenience is being felt in business circles in the West Indies and Demerara owing to the practical discontinuance of the regular mail service between the United Kingdom and the latter Colony; and whether he will endeavour to arrange a regular and permanent mail service to the Colony in question.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Inconvenience has no doubt resulted from the recent curtailment of the opportunities available for the conveyance of mails to Demerara, and I am considering to what extent improved arrangements are practicable.

In reply to a further Question the right hon. Gentleman promised that the service to the North-West Indian Islands should likewise be inquired into.

School Teachers and Citizen Rights.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether there are any rules or regulations preventing teachers in England and Wales from taking part in the ordinary duties of citizens; and whether, having regard to the existence of regulations by which teachers in Ireland are restricted, under the penalty of withdrawal of salary, from the same liberty as teachers in England and Wales enjoy, he can say whether he considers the drafting of any regulations necessary to secure uniformity.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (MR. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I am not aware what is included by the hon. Member in "the ordinary duties of citizens." The teachers in England and Wales may be subject to various rules imposed by their employers (the Local Education Authorities), of which I have no cognisance; but so far as the Board of Education are concerned the restrictions implied in Section 17 (4) of the Education Act, 1902, and in Sections (c) and (d) of Article 11 and (c) of Article 51 of the Code, are, I think, the principal limitations, as regards teachers in Public Elementary Schools in England and Wales, upon what the hon. Member might perhaps consider to be so included. I am not anxious to secure rigid uniformity in any portion of our national education.

Medical Inspection of Schools.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he contemplates the creation of a special State medical staff to supervise the efforts of local educational authorities for attending to the health and physical condition of the children educated in the public elementary schools.

MR. BIRRELL: The Board of Education are only responsible in respect of England and Wales. They already possess one medical inspector of schools, and I am contemplating the appointment of a second. I do not think it would be wise for the Board to embark upon the establishment of a large staff of such officials—at all events until there has been time to see to what extent the development of local authorities' activities under Clause 35 (b) of the Education Bill render such a course desirable.

Electric Trains—Methods of Working.

*MR. HUDSON (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any inquiry has been made into the method of working electric trains on various electric railways with only one man in the motor-house in charge of the motive power; and, having due regard to the safety of the travelling public, can he say whether his Department considers the present system of working those trains satisfactory.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): This question has been considered by the Board's Inspecting Officers of Railways, who inform me that they are not aware that any accident has arisen owing to there being only one man in charge of the driving gear upon electric trains, and that they have no reason for regarding this system of working such trains as dangerous.

Single Line Train Staffs.

*MR. HUDSON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can give the number of cases and the nature of injuries to servants of the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland) as a result of the use of the apparatus placed on locomotives to catch the train staff for single line working when running at high speed through stations.

MR. KEARLEY: Only one case of injury from the use of the apparatus in question has been reported to the Board of Trade, the man injured sustaining a fracture of the skull. This is the case referred to in the next Question by the hon. Member.

*MR. HUDSON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland) have the authority of the Board of Trade to continue the use of their invention placed on locomotives to catch the staff for the single line working of their railway at several stations between Portadown and Londonderry, after the defects revealed by the inquiry into the accident to an engine driver, caused by this apparatus, at Trew and Moy, in view of the rules laid down for working single lines of railway, which stipulate that the engine-driver must see and have in his possession the proper train staff for the section before he enters such section of the line.

MR. KEARLEY: The Board's Inspecting Officers of Railways have always advocated the employment of an apparatus for the purpose of exchanging staffs or tablets as being, generally speaking, safer than the usual practice of exchanging from hand to hand. The officer who inquired on behalf of the Board of Trade into the accident at Trew and Moy reported that alterations were being made in the experimental apparatus which should effectually prevent the occurrence of a similar mishap in future.

*MR. HUDSON asked if the Board of Trade were aware that these trains passed through stations at a speed of fifty miles an hour in some cases.

MR. KEARLEY: I will inquire.

Inland Revenue Assessors.

MR. SEARS (Cheltenham): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the fact that in many small towns and villages local tradesmen are employed in the position of assessors of inland revenue; that butchers and bakers are put in the position of naming the income for income-tax purposes of the local doctor, solicitor, banker, of brother tradesmen who may be their rivals in business, and of their customers; is he aware that the Boards of Inland Revenue have from time to time drawn attention to the unsatisfactory features of this system, and expressed the desire for its discontinuance; and whether he will cause inquiry to be made as to whether assessments of incomes are frequently done by deputy and sometimes by youths, and consider the desirability of introducing the Scottish system of assessment and collection of taxes by responsible officers of the Crown.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The employment of local persons as assessors of income-tax is based on the advantage which their local knowledge gives to them in assisting the Commissioners of Income Tax to make proper assessments. The Board of Inland Revenue are of opinion that this advantage much outweighs any drawbacks that the system may have; and they have never recommended its discontinuance. The Board have no reason to suppose that assessors are in the habit of delegating their duties to others.

Inland Revenue Assessment Staff.

MR. SEARS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been drawn to the multiplication of officials employed under the present system of assessing and collecting revenue under which the same taxpayer may be called on by an officer of the inland revenue to pay excise, by a collector of inland revenue to pay income-tax under Schedules D and E, by a local collector of taxes to pay income-tax under Schedules A and B, and by a surveyor of taxes or other officer of inland revenue for arrears; and whether he will consider the desirability of reforming the system on lines more consonant with economy and public convenience.

MR. McKENNA: In the opinion of the Board of Inland Revenue there is at present no undue multiplication of officials employed in the assessing and collecting of revenue, but I will look into the matter.

Clerks to Local Commissioners of Taxes.

MR. SEARS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that clerks to Local Commissioners of Taxes are usually solicitors of high standing who have a large portion of the work of copying of assessment of charge showing the incomes of all persons under Schedules D and E entrusted to casual labour obtained at the moment at the lowest possible rates; will he cause inquiry to be made as to how far this system infringes the secrecy enjoined in this connection to prevent disclosures of income.

MR. McKENNA: Under Section 38 of the Income Tax Act, 1842 "clerks and clerk's assistants" to Commissioners of Income Tax are required to be sworn to secrecy in respect of assessments under Schedule D; and no complaint has reached the Board of Inland Revenue that this requirement is not observed, or that improper disclosures have been made.

Justices of the Peace—Fees on Appointment.

MR. COWAN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether, in view of the fact that it is proposed to abolish the property qualification for Justices of the Peace in counties in England and Wales, he will take steps to assimilate the amount of £4, payable as fees to the county officials on an appointment as Justice of the Peace for a county in England and Wales, to the smaller amount payable on such appointments in Scotland.

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.): I think it is very desirable that the amount of the fees payable by Justices should be reduced to a reasonable sum. I am informed by the Home Office that every effort is made to effect this result, and to limit the charge to £2 in the case of ordinary Justices of the Peace, and 5s. in the case of those appointed *ex officio*. I am not aware of the amount paid in Scotland, and, therefore, cannot say whether the table applying in that country should be adopted in England.

New Arrangements for Divisions.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if the new arrangements for taking divisions will involve any extra expenditure; and, if so, how much.

*THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): The cost of the structural work has been £248. If it is ultimately determined to retain the extra marking clerks an additional sum of £300 per annum will be required on the Votes for the House of Commons Offices.

SIR ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): Can some early opportunity be given for the thanks of this honourable House to be passed to the right hon. Gentleman for the great benefit he has conferred upon us all by his clever new arrangement for taking divisions?

*THE SPEAKER: I am afraid there is no opportunity of offering the right hon. Gentleman thanks inside the House. Perhaps the hon. Member can devise some means of offering thanks to him outside.

New Government Buildings.

*MR. P. W. WILSON (St. Pancras, S.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he has received any representations respecting the towers which appear upon the plans of the new Government building facing Great George Street; and whether he is prepared to authorise the construction of any or all of those towers.

*MR. HARCOURT: Yes, Sir; I received a strong representation from the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects in favour of the completion of the towers on the Great George Street front of the new Public Offices. I replied to them in the following letter:—"I am much obliged by your letter of the 25th. Though I maintain my own opinion that the proposed very high towers on the Great George Street front of the new Public Offices are not architecturally or aesthetically desirable, I am not prepared to put my artistic opinions against those of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects. I have therefore given immediate instructions that the single tower of the building now in course of construction shall be continued and completed on the lines originally laid down by Mr. John Brydon. I need not say that I shall always greatly value any criticism or assistance that the Institute is good enough to afford me in that part of my duties which is connected with architecture." I may add that I have asked the contractors to see that as far as possible the masons to be engaged on this work shall be those who were discharged on its suspension, and the contractor has promised to meet my wishes.

Enclosure of Commons.

MR. PICKERSGILL: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the Board regard it as their duty to keep a vigilant eye on the enclosure of commons; and whether, if the Board have information which establishes a *primâ facie* case that land, for the enclosure of which the consent of the Board is by statute required, has been enclosed without such consent, the Board are accustomed to take any, and, if so, what, action.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) (for Sir E. STRACHEY): The Board scrutinise all proposals in Bills which involve enclosure of common land and report to Parliament thereon, but the Board of Agriculture have no power to institute proceedings in the case of other enclosures. As stated in the reply to my hon. friend on the 11th instant,† district councils may under the Local Government Act, 1894, aid in maintaining rights of common, and the Board of Agriculture will be ready at all times to give them any assistance in their power.

The Captain Sutherland Bequest.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether a Return has been made of the Captain Sutherland Bequest in favour of the poor of the parish of Rogart, Sutherland; and, if so, what means have been taken to protect the trust.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The Local Government Board for Scotland have obtained a return of this bequest as an item in the collection of a general Return of parish trusts ordered by the House last session, but they are not responsible for the financial position of any such trusts.

Scottish Magistrates.

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland when the Return of Magistrates appointed in Scotland since the date of the last Return, and promised early in the session, will be issued to Members?

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† See Cols. 705, 706.

MR. SINCLAIR: The materials for the Return have been collected and are in process of revision with a view to printing. The Return will be printed and issued as soon as practicable.

Scottish Procurators Fiscal.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether a county or burgh procurator fiscal can hold office or interfere in or be elected a representative on a county council, a parish council, or a town council.

THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs): Under a regulation by the Lord-Advocate dated 28th November, 1889, procurators fiscal were directed not to allow themselves to be nominated as candidates nor interfere in any way in the election of county councillors. There is no regulation that a procurator fiscal should not interfere in municipal or parish council elections. It has been the practice of Crown Counsel, however, to advise that they should avoid taking any action in municipal or parish council affairs which would prejudice them in the due performance of their official duties. There is already in force a further regulation against procurators fiscal interfering or taking part in political affairs. I think these regulations to be sound in principle and if any case should be brought under my notice of procurators fiscal interfering in municipal or parish council elections, I shall consider the propriety of issuing a similar general regulation against such interference.

Dunblane Police Dispute.

MR. WILKIE (Dundee): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that none of the offences and contraventions under The Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, and relative Acts, are prosecuted within the burgh of Dunblane; that the town council of Dunblane are desirous of having these matters attended to, but, in consequence of the refusal of the county police, for which the burgh is being assessed, to carry out the orders of the magistrates, these offences are not being attended to; and will he give instructions to the county police to obey the orders and warrants of the magistrates.

MR. SHAW: I understand that certain minor offences under the Burgh Police Acts are not being prosecuted at the present time, owing to a dispute between the Town Council of the Burgh of Dunblane and the Standing Joint Committee of the County of Perth as to the attendance of the Police at the Burgh Police Court. The Burgh authorities have power under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of 1892 to require the attendance of the Police upon the terms specified in Section 81. The Burgh authorities have hitherto not exercised this statutory power, and, it is understood, decline to do so. In the difference which has thus arisen between the Burgh and the County authorities neither the Secretary for Scotland nor the Lord Advocate has any authority to interfere.

MR. WILKIE: Who has power, then, to interfere?

MR. SHAW: It is a matter solely for the burgh authorities. The offences are offences under the Burgh Police Act, but I understand that a small financial dispute between the county and the burgh has prevented the police doing their duty.

MR. MORTON: Am I to understand that the Lord Advocate is not the superior officer concerned in this matter?

MR. SHAW: That is a question which I would rather not answer off-hand.

MR. MORTON: Will the hon. Gentleman be good enough to look up a case in connection with the Dumfries County Council in which Lord Robertson expressed the opinion that in these cases the Lord Advocate is the superior officer.

MR. SHAW: Perhaps the hon. Member will give me the reference so that I may look it up.

Close Time for Hares—Waterford Resolution.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a resolution passed by the Waterford County Council containing a petition for an alteration of the close season for hares in the county of Waterford has been received; and whether, as it seeks to extend the close season from 12th April—12th August to 1st March—20th September, it will be favourably considered.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The resolution in question has been received and is under the Lord-Lieutenant's consideration.

Dublin Metropolitan Police Courts.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Dublin Metropolitan Police magistrates have this year declined to grant a Return of the number of cases of a certain class tried in their courts during the year 1905 because of the discovery of a serious discrepancy between their Return and the official Return of the Chief Commissioner of Police for the year 1904; and whether, in view of the fact that the public are entitled by law to this information in a less convenient way, he will give instructions to the magistrates to extend the same facilities as in past years.

MR. BRYCE: The Chief Magistrate of the Dublin Metropolitan Police district informs me that he has declined to order the preparation of the Return in question, because he has no power to do so, and not because of any discrepancy between a previous Return and the Return of the Chief Commissioner of Police. The magistrates did not order the previous Returns to be made, though they acquiesced in the preparation of such returns by a member of the Police Court staff at the cost of the Licensed Vintners' Association. Neither the magistrates nor the police authorities are aware of any discrepancy between the Returns mentioned. I have no power to give instructions to the magistrates in the matter.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Who has the power?

MR. BRYCE: Nobody. Even if the magistrates had, I have no power to direct them to make the Return.

Richmond District Lunatic Asylum.

MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the manner in which Sub-section (7) of Section 9 of The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, has operated in regard to the apportionment of lunatic asylum expenses against contributing county councils on the basis of a triennial average; whether he is aware that in the case of the Richmond District Lunatic Asylum during the six years ended March 31st, 1905, the county councils of Dublin, Wicklow, and Louth have been charged with £4,552, £1,214, and £2,678, respectively, more, and the Corporation of Dublin with £8,444 less than the actual cost of their patients, and that this difference of charge would be greatly increased by the transfer of lunatics from the north and south Dublin union workhouses to the Richmond Asylum, which has been so repeatedly urged upon the Board of Guardians of these unions by the Local Government Board and the inspectors of lunatics; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of having the Act amended at the first opportunity by restoring the system in operation prior to 1899, viz., charging at the end of every year to each county council the actual cost of the maintenance of their patients.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that the facts are correctly stated in the Question. There is admittedly some inequality in the existing system, and this results from the proviso in the subsection quoted to the effect that the expenses in a joint asylum district shall be defrayed by the several counties in proportion to the number of lunatics from each county according to the average of the three local financial years which ended next before the last three annual elections of county councils. The Richmond Asylum district comprises the city of Dublin, and the counties of Dublin, Wicklow, and Louth. In compound districts such as this, in which the number of lunatics from the city increases continually at a much greater rate than those from the contributory counties, the city does not pay in proportion to the number of its lunatics owing to its quota being calculated on the basis of three antecedent years. The remedy suggested by the hon. Member would undoubtedly remove the inequality, but I am advised that it is not clear that the plan could be successfully carried out in practice. The matter, however, deserves to be further inquired into with the object of seeing whether any, and if so what, legislation could be undertaken at a convenient opportunity.

Irish Intermediate Education Rules.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of Intermediate Education (Ireland) have considered the alteration of their rules recently proposed by the House of Commons; and, if so, with what result; when will the revised programme be laid upon the Table; and whether he will publish the minutes of the last meeting of the Board.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to refer to a reply which I gave to a Question on this subject yesterday,† namely, that communications in reference to the matter are passing between the Irish Government and the Commissioners, and that I am not in a position to make any statement on the subject.

In Answer to a further Question by the hon. Member, Mr. BRYCE said the matter was involved in great difficulty as regards time.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Have the Board refused to act on the unanimous resolve of this House?

MR. BRYCE: I can make no statement at present.

Captain Caldbeck's, Queen's County Estate.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretry to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say what progress has been made with the sale of the estate of Captain Caldbeck, Ballacolla, Queen's County, to the tenants, which has been before the Estates Commissioners for over twelve months; whether the point of law in the case referred to Judge Meredith has been decided; if there is any prospect of the untenanted land upon the estate being acquired for the enlargement of the small holdings and the settlement of the evicted tenants in the locality; and can he say what is the cause of the delay.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received from their inspector a further report upon the estate in question. The Commissioners are not satisfied with the proposed allocation of the untenanted land according to the purchase agreements at present before them, and they propose to offer to purchase the estate from the vendor under Section 6 of the Act of 1903. No necessity has, therefore, arisen for referring any question of law in the case to Mr. Justice Meredith. If the Commissioners should purchase the estate they will consider the most suitable mode of re-selling the untenanted land, having regard to the wants of occupiers of small holdings and evicted tenants in the neighbourhood. The cause of the delay has been, amongst other matters, the difficulties as to the disposal of the untenanted land.

Athlone Workmen's Dwelling Scheme.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the site for workmen's dwellings in St. Peter's Ward, Athlone, selected by the urban council and known as Dolan's site, has been condemned by the Local Government Board on the Report of Mr Price on certain specified grounds; whether he is aware that this site was passed by the engineer of the council and that the grounds set forth by Mr. Price were refuted by Mr. Middleton, surveyor of Pembroke District Council, who reported most favourably on the site, and that Mr. Cowan, chief engineer to the Local Government Board, unofficially visited the site and stated he would not condemn it; and whether he will state why, in face of these facts, the Local Government Board persists in its objection to this site and prevents by so doing the erection of houses so much needed in the town of Athlone.

MR. BRYCE: The reply to the first inquiry is in the affirmative. It is the fact that the site in question was passed by the engineer of the council; and after the decision of the Local Government Board adverse to the site had been conveyed to the council, a communication was received from them stating the grounds upon which Mr. Middleton sought to controvert the report of the Board's Inspector, Mr. Price. The Board again carefully considered the matter, but saw no reason to alter their opinion as to the site. Mr. Cowan was not asked to report on the merits of the different sites concerned, and he has never reported regarding any of them. The council are not proceeding with the proposal to acquire Dolan's site, but have put forward another site concerning which a local inquiry was to have commenced yesterday.

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† See Col. 969.

Barrow Strand, Fenit.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Messrs. Holt and Oliver visited Barrow Strand, Fenit; whether they have sent in a Report; and whether the Department of Agriculture or the Land Commission, or both, will find the money necessary to protect the land of the district from being rendered useless.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that Mr. Holt, the scientific adviser of the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Agriculture, and Mr. Oliver, the Department's engineer, recently visited Barrow Strand, when their attention was directed to the fact that sand had drifted upon certain agricultural holdings and houses. The engineer is of opinion that the alteration of the course of a channel through the sand banks may have caused the drifting, and that if the channel were restored to its original course the accumulation of sand would cease. The cost of such an operation would be considerable, and the Department have no funds applicable to the purpose. It would seem also that the Land Commission have neither the funds nor the legal power to undertake such a work.

Belfast Constabulary Inquiry.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the Report of the Commission held in connection with the Royal Irish Constabulary at Belfast, together with the correspondence that led to its appointment.

MR. BRYCE: The Commission has only now finished its sittings, and its Report has not yet been prepared. I am not at present aware of any reason why the Report, when received, should not be laid upon the Table.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): At whose instigation did the right hon. Gentleman appoint the Committee.

MR. BRYCE: I appointed it.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: What facts were brought to the knowledge of the right hon. Gentleman to induce him to appoint it.

MR. BRYCE declined to answer that question.

Kerry Evicted Tenants.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners in endeavouring to effect the reinstatement of evicted tenants in Kerry merely make a request to the landlord as to his willingness to negotiate; whether in the event of a refusal by the landlord the Commissioners have any power to proceed further with the reinstatement; and whether he can give a Return showing the names of the landlords and tenants in which failure to reinstate has occurred owing to the landlord's refusal.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that it is their practice to approach the landlord with a view to ascertaining whether he is willing to enter into negotiations for the sale of the holding, but they have no power to compel an owner to sell. If the owner will not sell, the Commissioners consider the possibility of providing a holding for the evicted tenant elsewhere. The Commissioners propose to publish in their annual report, or half-yearly if it is so desired, a statement showing generally how far the reinstatement of evicted tenants in their former holdings has been effected, or how far holdings have been provided for them elsewhere, and generally the causes of success or failure as the case may be. The Commissioners do not, however, propose to detail the names of the owners in cases in which reinstatement has not been effected.

Trinity College Commission.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG: On behalf of the hon. Member for Mid Armagh, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of his declaration that the Trinity College Commission was to be an impartial and non-political body, he will reconsider the appointment of Dr. Douglas Hyde, the President of the Gælic League, who has shown a partisan spirit, and on the platform and in the Press has held up Trinity College to obloquy and ridicule.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) interposed to ask the Speaker whether it was in order to make allegations in a Question such as were here made.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG asked, on the point of order, whether it was not perfectly correct to say what was said in the Question of a man who had spoken of the devouring demon of Anglicization.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not see that there is anything I can object to in the Question. The hon. Member who has put it down makes himself responsible for that view, although I daresay a great number of persons would not take a similar view of Dr. Douglas Hyde.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) asked whether Questions were not for the purpose of asking for information, and whether they were to be used for the purpose of making calumnious statements.

*MR. SPEAKER: I have always tried as far as possible to soften down any expressions brought to my notice in Questions which might be taken exception to.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) asked whether Questions were not put as to matters of fact, and whether an hon. Gentleman was to be able to put his own opinion through the vehicle of a Question as to whether a partisan spirit had or had not been shown, which was a matter of opinion and argument. The Nationalist Members had often been told that they were not allowed to put any Questions involving discussion.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is travelling beyond the limits of a Question.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL asked whether arguable matters and matters of opinion were allowed to be conveyed by way of question. He would again impress on the Speaker not to allow this Question to be put.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not think I can add anything to what I have already said. I have tried as far as possible to discountenance any Questions in which expressions are used likely to give offence.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to give notice that I will put down a Question which will contain some allegations against the hon. Member.

MR. BRYCE, answering the Question, said: It would be impossible to adopt the suggestion made in the Question. I am not aware of any foundation for the allegations made, and I am informed that Dr. Douglas Hyde, who is a distinguished graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, has constantly exerted his influence to prevent the Gælic League from being drawn into the vortex of Party politics——

MR. CHARLES CRAIG asked whether Dr. Douglas Hyde had not on numerous occasions given vent to strong anti-English feeling, and whether it was not the fact that on one occasion——

*MR. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman has already said that he has no information to that effect. If the hon. Member wishes to ask anything further he had better give notice.

Belfast Valuation.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will grant the Return standing on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Newry.†

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† Return showing the Valuation placed upon each House in Royal Avenue and Donegal Place, Belfast, at the recent revaluation, showing (1) the Valuation fixed in first instance; (2) after the first appeal; (3) after the appeal to the Recorder.

MR. McKENNA: I am informed that the information asked for in the Return has already been given in the Valuation and Appeal lists issued to the Belfast Corporation, which were open to public inspection. In these circumstances I do not feel justified in authorising the expenditure which would be involved if the Return were granted.

Danish Consulate Report.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick); I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Department of Agriculture has been drawn to the review by the Danish Consulate on the British butter and bacon market, and whether he proposes to take any, and, if any, what steps to test the accuracy of the statements there made relative to Irish bacon, and, if they are found to be inaccurate, to secure their contradiction.

MR. BRYCE: The attention of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction has been drawn to the report of the Danish Consulate referred to, and they are instituting inquiries in reference to the statements as to Irish bacon contained in that report.

Irish Teachers' Pensions.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many national teachers were in the first division of the first class in 1897, when the last revision of the pension scheme was made; how many of these were, in 1897, declared eligible for pensions of £88, and were then included in the standard number; how many teachers in the division and class named were, in 1897, excluded from pensions of £88; how many of those excluded in 1897 have since been included for such pensions; how many then excluded still so remain; on what principle are these teachers placed in a worse position than other teachers having the same qualification; and why is the standard number not abolished in this class as it has been in all other classes.

MR. McKENNA: The numbers asked for in the first five parts of the Question are in order 559; 150; 409; 63; 346. With regard to the last two parts of the Question I must inform the hon. Member that under the rules of 1897, which are in force at the present time, the maximum pension of £88 was abolished. Vested interests, however, were to be respected, and teachers who were eligible for the higher pension on the 1st January, 1898—the date on which the new rules came into operation—retained their existing rights subject, of course, to the existing conditions, one of which was the maintenance of a standard number for the First Division on the First Class.

Irish Lunacy Grant.

MR. COGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the sum of £55,692, voted by Parliament in the 1874–5 Civil Service Estimates as a grant-in-aid of the maintenance of pauper lunatics in Irish district asylums, for the nine months ended December 31st, 1874, was surrendered to the Exchequer as an unexpended balance on March 31st, 1875, in consequence of the certified claims, based on the audited accounts to the asylums for 1874, not having been received in time to enable payment to be made before the expiration of the financial year 1874–5; that a similar sum was re-voted in the next Parliamentary Estimates, and the actual grants for the nine months ended December 31st, 1874, paid out of this vote during the year 1875; that since that time the capitation grant claims have always been paid in arrears after the audit of the asylums accounts for the previous financial year had been completed; and that on the change in the asylums financial year from December 31st to March 31st, after the passing of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, the Irish county councils defrayed the cost of maintenance of pauper lunatics for fifteen months from January 1st, 1899, to March 31st, 1900, and only received twelve months' grant-in-aid, covering the period from April 1st, 1899, to March 31st, 1900; and whether he will give instructions that the certified claims for three months thus omitted (from January 1st, to March 31st, 1899), amounting approximately to £37,000, shall be paid out of the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account direct to the various county councils, in accordance with Section 58 (2) (c), of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898.

MR. McKENNA: It is true that as a result of the Local Government Act of 1898 a gap of three months did occur in respect of which payment was due from the Exchequer of the Local Taxation Account. The period in question was, however, January 1st to April 1st, 1898. The hon. Member cannot be aware that a Supplementary Vote was taken in 1900, especially to repay to the Local Taxation Account the charges, amounting to £37,030, which the Account had borne during these three months. The Supplementary Estimate is contained in Parliamentary Paper No. 280 of July 17th, 1900, and attached to it is a note to which I would refer the hon. Member for a fuller explanation of this complicated Question.

Bangor Post Office.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he proposes to raise the new post office in Bangor, county Down, to the position of a head office, with the second office as a branch.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: It is not proposed to raise the main post office at Bangor (County Down) to the rank of a head post office. No improvement in postal facilities would result from such a change.

THE "EDITING" OF QUESTIONS.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL called attention to the alleged interference by the Clerks of the House with Questions handed in at the Table by hon. Members. He understood that the rule was that the power of editing Questions was vested in the Speaker; but in practice, when a Question was handed in at the Table, the Clerk at the Table could, if he so chose, show the Question to the Speaker and alter it under his supervision. Now, for the first time, the Clerks at the Table, without communicating with the hon. Members who handed in the Questions, had exercised the power of editing the Questions, although the Speaker was incapable of delegating that power to them. He submitted that the Clerks at the Table had no right to alter a single word in a Question without the consent of the hon. Member who handed it in. He objected strongly to their interference; it would be better to postpone the Question.

*MR. SPEAKER: I regret very much the tone of the speech from the hon. Member and his attack upon the Clerks at the Table, who are not in a position to reply. I totally differ from the view of the hon. Member. I think the Clerks at the Table during the ten years in which I have been in close contact with them have done their very difficult work in a most admirable manner. There is often great difficulty with regard to Questions. The Clerks at the Table, acting under my directions, edit them according to well-established and well-known regulations; and if any difference arises between them and the hon. Members who bring the Questions to the Table, the proper course is that the Questions should be submitted to me. As every Question has to appear upon the Paper one day before it is asked in the House, there can be no difficulty whatever, if an hon. Member has a complaint to make, in bringing the Question to me, and I should be very glad to consider it.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND suggested that a Rule should be established that no Question should be altered until the Member who wished to ask it had been consulted by the Clerks at the Table.

*MR. SPEAKER: That, no doubt, would be a good rule in some respects. But I think the obvious disadvantage of it is that the hon. Member would lose his place. The Clerks frequently consider the desirability of not putting a Question upon the Paper until the terms of it are settled. But, on the whole, it would be better to put it upon the Paper, otherwise the hon. Member who expected to ask his Question, say, on Thursday, might lose his place and would not be able to ask it until Monday.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON asked whether the difficulty could not be overcome by hon. Members waiting at the Table until the Questions had been read over.

*MR. SPEAKER: That would be impracticable. Very often a great number of Members come to the Table at the same time, and if they were all to be kept waiting it would cause great inconvenience.

NEW BILLS.

NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

"To regulate the qualifications of trained Nurses and to provide for their registration," presented by Mr. Munro Ferguson; supported by Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Rose, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. A. W. Black, Mr. Eve, Mr. Fell, Mr. Crooks, and Mr. M'Killop; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 253.]

GOVERNMENT OF SCOTLAND BILL.

"To amend the provision for the future government of Scotland," presented by Mr. Pirie; supported by Mr. Barnes, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Arthur Dewar, Mr. Gulland, Mr. Lamont, Mr. Murray Macdonald, Mr. Evans, Mr. Keir Hardie, Sir William Holland, Mr. William O'Brien, and Mr. Walker; to be read a second time upon Monday, July 9th, and to be printed. [Bill 254.]

BOND INVESTMENT COMPANIES BILL.

"To provide for the better regulation of Bond Investment Companies," presented by Mr. Kearley; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 255.]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Ordered, That Mr. Blake be discharged from the Committee.

Ordered, That Mr. Hazelton be added to the Committee.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

SUPPLY [12th ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £1,122,128 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland, including a Grant in Aid."

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire) said he might be allowed, in submitting these Estimates, to introduce a few remarks in order to bring the consideration of the Committee to the question which would form the chief topic of discussion, namely, the Minute for the training of teachers. In the last few years there had been many changes carried out administratively in Scottish education, and these Estimates, like those of various other Departments which had been discussed already, were inherited. The present Government came into office at a time of the year when the Estimates were in an advanced condition, and under any circumstances it would have been difficult to make any radical change in either policy or Estimates this year. There had not been, however, in the House of Commons in the last few years any great difference between Scottish Members in regard to Scottish education, except perhaps when they came to discuss the Education Bills of the late Government. But so far as the administration of Scottish education had been concerned, whilst there had been great interest shown by Scottish Members in all parts of the House, and, as an expression of that great interest, considerable criticism, there had never been any deep or wide difference of opinion between them. In reviewing very briefly what had occurred during the last few years he did so under the eyes of the hon.

Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, who, they all recognised, had had an honourable share in directing that policy. Since the year 1898 great changes had been carried out in Scottish education. Elementary education had been transformed in many directions. The custom of leaving school after passing the fifth standard had gone. The leaving certificate, and all the arrangements as well as the grants depending on the results in different branches of study, had gone, and there was now a system under which there was much greater freedom to the teacher in connection with the work of the school, much greater security to the school board, in that its resources depended on the fixed grant, and altogether an improved state of things. One incidental advantage of great importance was that they had longer attendance at school. By the Act of 1901 the age of fourteen was fixed as the limit of compulsory education, and the arrangements since had been based upon that. In consequence of the changes there had been a considerable increase in the attendance at the primary schools of pupils at a later age. Another change carried out was the organisation of the higher grade schools. Roughly, when pupils in the elementary schools reached the average age of twelve there was a bifurcation between those who intended to prolong their education by going to a higher grade school and those who, looking forward possibly to taking up unskilled occupations or for other reasons, could not remain at school beyond the age of fourteen. These latter, whose school course was based upon the principle that their study of the elementary subjects should be as complete as possible, could go on and get the intermediary certificate at the age of fourteen. It was among these partly that there had been a great increase of attendance. The pupils contemplatng another course of study after the age of twelve entered upon a course of higher grade education. In former days the education now given in higher grade schools or in the higher grade departments of the elementary schools was entirely unorganised, and, except in special cases, was incoherent. There were science and art classes; there were classes established by the county council but there was no organised system of higher grade education. The establishment of higher grade schools had been encouraged throughout the country, and the opportunity was afforded to pupils who wished to continue their education up to fifteen or sixteen years of age to attend higher grade schools. It was obvious that this opportunity was limited; that was to say, there could not be higher grade schools within the reach of all pupils, especially in rural districts. Though the increase in the number of these higher grade schools in Scotland had been very marked, there were still only 137 throughout the country. It was hoped and intended that when this system was fully developed there should be facilities for higher grade education within the reach of all those who wished to take advantage of them. Personally he held strongly, now that the State had practically swept out of its course all private adventure in the matter of such schools, that it was the bounden duty of the Government to place within the reach of ability of all kinds, and wherever it might be found, the opportunities of development. The increase of higher grade education implied a great increase in the teaching staff and, from the fact that the education was of a somewhat higher kind, an improvement in the quality of the teaching. There was one other respect in which advance had been made in the last few years, and that was in affording facilities for education to those who had left school and who found the necessity or the desirability of improving their education as years went on. To supply this need in former days they had the evening continuation schools, but it had been felt that there was need of an organised effort to meet this growing want, and there had now grown up a system which was described in the continuation class code, and which afforded to pupils an opportunity of this kind. These continuation classes, which had been organised into a system, might be held at any time during the day and not necessarily in the evening, and instruction might be given in single subjects or in groups of subjects. They provided elementary education for those who found themselves deficient in it. Indeed it was very often found that before such pupils could go on to the other advantages given under the code they had to supplement their earlier and elementary education. Having done that, or if they were to enter upon the other branches of study without it, they could provide themselves with special instruction having application to the trades in which they were engaged. The idea underlying the system of continuation classes was two-fold. In the first place, it was hoped that the system might really lead up to the central technical institutions which were now established in Scotland, and that these technical institutions, governed as they were by the representatives of trade and employers actually engaged in trade, might exercise a powerful influence upon the character and education of the young people who took advantage of them. Just as it was hoped that the higher grade facilities would be placed within the reach of the pupils who took advantage of them in the day schools of the country, so it was hoped that as this system was more widely known and taken advantage of continuation classes would be within the reach of all pupils who wished to take advantage of them. This development postulated an increase in the number of qualified teachers. It had always been the traditional boast of Scotland that it was possible for an able and capable boy to go from the parish school to the University. It should be possible now, but for the fact that in regard to the greatness of the population in Scotland the operation of altered circumstances compelled some degree of specialisation in the different classes of schools. Whereas in days gone by advanced and exceptional pupils went to the University at sixteen, fifteen, or even fourteen years of age, the Universities themselves had moved forward and such cases were rare under existing conditions. Regard must be had to the fact that there was division and specialisation of schools, and now probably men rarely entered the University at a lower age than seventeen. The principle underlying the organisation of the schools he had briefly described was clearly stated in the explanatory memorandum of the collection of circulars issued some years ago. The principle was this: Whereas in Scotland for those who were not going to stay at school beyond the age of fourteen there were to be public elementary schools which would give the education qualifying for the merit certificate at that age, for those who intended to take a more prolonged course there was the higher grade schools which would carry them on to the age of fifteen or sixteen, while for those who wished to prolong their education to the University point at seventeen or eighteen there was the higher class school. These three lines of education were not to be imposed one on another; they were on parallel lines, and they rested on the foundation that where higher grade schools were not actually within the reach of pupils they must be put within their reach by means of bursaries; and by that means, right through the whole system, to open the channel of education to those who were able to take advantage of the facilities thus afforded. It would interest the Committee to know the figures showing the increase in the number of pupils in the elementary schools since the Act of 1901 established the statutory age at fourteen. The number of pupils over twelve on the register in 1901 was 157,543, being 20·5 of the whole. It was now 22·89 of the whole. At the same time the percentage of increase on the number of children between seven and twelve was only 1·89, while the percentage of increase under seven was 0·81. The increase, therefore, had been chiefly in the pupils above twelve. Taking the figures in another way, the total increase of pupils over twelve was 26,542. Allowing an increase of 7,000 for the growth of population this represented a clear gain on the attendance of these particular children of over 19,000. He had said enough to show that the view taken hitherto was that every elementary school should be at any rate *in posse* a higher grade school. There was nothing to prevent a higher grade pupil from being taken on to higher grade subjects in an elementary school. While that applied to an elementary school so far as higher grade education was concerned, it was intended that it should apply in the higher grade schools so far as secondary education was concerned. There was no desire to put any limit on such development so long as the higher grade schools did not come into unnecessary competition with the other schools. The success of the higher grade schools had been considerable. There were now 135 in Scotland, and, although their distribution left something to be desired, there were comparatively few districts now, he understood, where the opportunity for secondary education was not within the reach of enterprising youth. There were six of these higher grade schools in the county of Sutherland, four in Ross-shire, one in the Island of Lewis, and one in the Island of Skye, and it was hoped that these facilities might increase as time went on and as there was more readiness to take advantage of them. The average attendance in the higher grade schools, including the higher grade departments, in 1900 was 2,949; four years later it was 10,000; and last year it was about 15,000. These figures showed that considerable advantage had been taken of this development. He would not dwell on the continuation class schools. In recent years there had been considerable development in the attendance of pupils of more mature years at the schools in Scotland. This seemed to carry with it the obligation to provide an increase, if possible, of the teaching staff. How had the training of the teachers been provided in the past? Until the year 1895 the training of teachers in Scotland was entirely carried on in denominational colleges under the control of the churches. These colleges and churches had unquestionably done great service to Scotland and to the interests of Scottish education. But even before that year there was a growing feeling that this was properly not denominational but national work. Apart entirely from that question of principle, there were pressing practical reasons for attempting to increase the supply of teachers. The fact was, as had been often stated in this House, and by nobody more emphatically than himself, the existing provision in regard to teachers was not sufficient. The churches expressed themselves averse to undertaking any development in this matter without the aid of State funds. Public opinion, he thought, was not inclined to justify the placing of further State funds at the disposal of the denominations for this purpose, in view of the growing feeling that this was a national duty and obligation. In 1895 the Committees which went under the name of King's Students Committees established one after another in the principal Universities schools for the training of intending teachers, thus endeavouring to add to the output of the Training Colleges King's students. The number of such students was 335. This Minute had worked for some years, but it was varied in its definite form. The Minute issued last year constituted what were now known as Provincial Committees, and a definite shape and form was given to the machinery for providing an extra supply of teachers. These Committees consisted of representatives from the Universities, but the predominating proportion of their number were representatives of the school boards. It was thought that all these bodies had an interest in the matter and that they should be properly represented. Then power was given to train King's scholars as well as King's students. That was practically to undertake the work of the old training colleges. It was premature to build new premises until the view of the churches was known. The Provincial Committees were empowered to accept the transference of the Church training colleges on conditions. On the one hand the churches were not bound to transfer the colleges, nor were the Committees under obligation to accept them except under proper conditions; and it was laid down in the Minute that if such transference involved the payment of money the Treasury had first to be consulted. There was one condition which it was as well to make clear, and that was that in no case did the Department introduce any proposal that the expense of providing religious instruction by the Provincial Committees, whether for King's students in new colleges or in existing colleges, should be made in any degree out of the grants coming from Parliament. The next step taken by the late Government was the provisional issue of drafting regulations for the training of teachers. These regulations had been under consideration for the last six months; they had been published in all the Scottish newspapers; they were known to the authorities interested in education; and the school boards, especially in the great centres of population, had been in conference on the points raised by the Minute. The main change carried out by the Minute was the establishment of a concurrent system of the supply of teachers—a system of junior students which should be concurrent with the existing system of pupil-teachers. The fact was that the pupil-teacher system did not induce a sufficiently elastic supply of future teachers. There was no increase in the number of pupil-teachers sufficiently corresponding to the increase in the teaching staff. In 1873 the percentage of pupil-teachers to the total staff was 58·09; ten years after the figure had fallen to 33·18; in 1893 it was only 25·68; and last year it was only 20·43. It was notable also in particular that the output of male teachers under this system was inadequate. In 1873 the percentage of male pupil-teachers to the total staff was 53·22; but in 1905 it had fallen to 12·13. Another notable fact was that the proportion coming from the country districts had been growing less and less. As a matter of fact the pupil-teacher system had been given up. He did not say that the pupil-teacher system had not been of great assistance in the past; it had in many cases produced good teachers, but looked at coldly it was a form of cheap labour. The business of the pupil-teacher originally was to carry on the mechanical part of teaching under the guidance of some other teacher. In former days he had very little opportunity for his own education or for the study of the requirements of his profession. All honour to those who had surmounted those difficulties. In 1873, by regulation, the number of pupil-teachers to one certificated teacher was cut down to four; in 1878 it was three and in 1888 it was two. That brought with it a greater proportion of certificated teachers and an improvement in the work by which the pupil-teachers prepared themselves for their profession. As a matter of fact a great departure in this matter was taken in 1895, when what was practically the half-day system was instituted. The pupil-teacher was then obliged to teach half the day and to give the rest of the day to his own improvement. He or she lost his or her essential position in the school. That to was say, the pupil-teacher became an auxiliary who, whether boy or girl, could not give uninterrupted care to the class of children. While on the one hand he lost his former position in the school it was undoubtedly the case that the attainments of the pupil-teacher improved. Although he did not rely upon these points he thought he could give figures to establish what he had said. The pupil-teacher had, in fact, been abolishing himself; that was to say, the proposed regulations did little more than recognise existing developments. As to the cost, the school board was relieved from all expenditure for the maintenance and pay of these junior students who took the place of the pupil-teachers. Each board was given the opportunity of putting forward a certain number of candidates to be trained as junior students and to receive the maintenance allowance which might be taken while being trained. This maintenance allowance might be taken as the equivalent of the salary of the pupil-teachers, and it would enable the holder to obtain an education not only in his own parish, but anywhere in his own county, so that he would receive an education which would be comparable not with that which he would receive in country districts but with that which he would receive in large towns under school boards. The managers of the special training centres would receive a grant for the instruction of these junior students to the extent of such a sum as would almost, if not altogether, provide for their education and training. Two important alterations been made in the Minute in deference to criticisms. There was in the first place nothing in the Minute which arrested or abolished the present pupil-teacher system, and in the second place the paragraph in the Minute as originally drafted, which dealt with candidates on probation, had also been omitted. He must confess that these omissions had been made contrary to his own judgment and that of the Department. There were of course, however, *pros* and *cons*—advantages and disadvantages. As the Minute now stood a junior student must have obtained an intermediate certificate before he would be accepted as a junior student. There were very many schools higher grade schools did not come into unnecessary competition with the other schools. The success of the higher grade schools had been considerable. There were now 135 in Scotland, and, although their distribution left something to be desired, there were comparatively few districts now, he understood, where the opportunity for secondary education was not within the reach of enterprising youth. There were six of these higher grade schools in the county of Sutherland, four in Ross-shire, one in the Island of Lewis, and one in the Island of Skye, and it was hoped that these facilities might increase as time went on and as there was more readiness to take advantage of them. The average attendance in the higher grade schools, including the higher grade departments, in 1900 was 2,949; four years later it was 10,000; and last year it was about 15,000. These figures showed that considerable advantage had been taken of this development. He would not dwell on the continuation class schools. In recent years there had been considerable development in the attendance of pupils of more mature years at the schools in Scotland. This seemed to carry with it the obligation to provide an increase, if possible, of the teaching staff. How had the training of the teachers been provided in the past? Until the year 1895 the training of teachers in Scotland was entirely carried on in denominational colleges under the control of the churches. These colleges and churches had unquestionably done great service to Scotland and to the interests of Scottish education. But even before that year there was a growing feeling that this was properly not denominational but national work. Apart entirely from that question of principle, there were pressing practical reasons for attempting to increase the supply of teachers. The fact was, as had been often stated in this House, and by nobody more emphatically than himself, the existing provision in regard to teachers was not sufficient. The churches expressed themselves averse to undertaking any development in this matter without the aid of State funds. 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It was thought that all these bodies had an interest in the matter and that they should be properly represented. Then power was given to train King's scholars as well as King's students. That was practically to undertake the work of the old training colleges. It was premature to build new premises until the view of the churches was known. The Provincial Committees were empowered to accept the transference of the Church training colleges on conditions. On the one hand the churches were not bound to transfer the colleges, nor were the Committees under obligation to accept them except under proper conditions; and it was laid down in the Minute that if such transference involved the payment of money the Treasury had first to be consulted. 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As a matter of fact a great departure in this matter was taken in 1895, when what was practically the half-day system was instituted. The pupil-teacher was then obliged to teach half the day and to give the rest of the day to his own improvement. He or she lost his or her essential position in the school. That to was say, the pupil-teacher became an auxiliary who, whether boy or girl, could not give uninterrupted care to the class of children. While on the one hand he lost his former position in the school it was undoubtedly the case that the attainments of the pupil-teacher improved. Although he did not rely upon these points he thought he could give figures to establish what he had said. The pupil-teacher had, in fact, been abolishing himself; that was to say, the proposed regulations did little more than recognise existing developments. 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Two important alterations been made in the Minute in deference to criticisms. There was in the first place nothing in the Minute which arrested or abolished the present pupil-teacher system, and in the second place the paragraph in the Minute as originally drafted, which dealt with candidates on probation, had also been omitted. He must confess that these omissions had been made contrary to his own judgment and that of the Department. There were of course, however, *pros* and *cons*—advantages and disadvantages. As the Minute now stood a junior student must have obtained an intermediate certificate before he would be accepted as a junior student. There were very many schools in the country, however, which could not bring their scholars up to the intermediate certificate, and it seemed necessary, therefore, that arrangements should be made to enable the bright pupil in distant parts of the country to be sent to a school—and boarded if necessary—which could give him the education to enable him to obtain the intermediate certificate which was the necessary preliminary to his becoming a junior student. That was the part of the scheme to which objection was taken and it had been omitted, but under the Aid Grant Minute an additional sum of £25,000 in the present year, an amount which could be increased in future years if necessity was shown, would be placed at the disposal of the county councils for the express purpose of enabling them to make these provisions for pupils in out-of the-way districts who were unable to obtain the intermediate certificate in their own locality. A part of this £25,000 would go for the purpose of trying the scheme of the draft Minute, and it would be for future consideration if further and more definite steps were to be taken in that direction. It was urged that great expense would fall upon school boards if they were to replace pupil-teachers by certificated teachers, and had to make structural alterations in class-rooms to meet the additional number of children. In reply to that objection he might first point out that the pupil teacher was not yet abolished. And even when the time came (if it ever came) when it seemed desirable to adopt wholly this system of junior students, several years must elapse before any system took the place of the existing system of pupil teachers. This question of expense and difficulty in structural arrangements might be considered to fall with exceptional hardship on the small schools. In the small schools every effort had been made to meet the difficulties. Special encouragement was given to small schools in the shape of grants towards the payment of teachers to improve their staffs. Another objection to this proposal was that the regulation made it more difficult for children of working-class parents to enter the teaching profession. If that could really be urged against this Minute it would be a grave and fatal objection, for he held strongly that it would be disastrous for the purpose of the education of the country not to pick their brains from wherever they could get them. The whole brain power of the country should certainly be drawn upon for the supply of the teaching profession. The intention of these regulations was entirely in the direction of opening the door more widely to the brains of all classes of the community. This would certainly have been the effect in black and white, in his humble judgment, if the previous chapter of the Minute which they had omitted had not been omitted; but it having been omitted the attempt had been made in the meantime to place at the disposal of the educational authorities for this purpose a sum equivalent for the year to the sum now paid in salaries for pupil-teacher students and for pupil-teachers. There was only one other objection which had been urged against the regulation, that was that these new junior students would not receive sufficient practice in teaching. The answer to that was that they were substituting for the present facilities for teaching, which were casual and not thorough and very often without direction or guidance, an organised system of instruction in teaching. The Minute provided for a minimum of six months instruction in teaching, which could be increased afterwards to two years. That, he thought, was a complete answer to the objection. There had been additional expenditure in recent years in education on Scotland. It has been due to two causes, namely, the increase in the attendance of senior pupils and the regulations restricting the number of pupils to be taught by one teacher. But there had been additions to the resources of the local authorities which had been placed at their disposal by Parliament. There was the higher grade grant to the higher grade schools, the increased grant to the supplementary classes, and the help given under the general aid grant. The question had been raised in various memorials as to the proportion of the burden borne by the school board authorities and the proportion supplied by grants. What was the result of the additional burdens imposed on the school authorities and the additional grants available since that time? Taking all the additional expenditure for Scotland for all the objects towards which State aid was given, reckoning capital expenditure in the shape of interest on and the repayment of loans, and counting local grants not as part of State grants but local contributions, he found that the figures were these. In 1900–1 the proportions were: State aid, 47·7 per cent. and the local charge 52·3; in the year 1904–5 the State aid was 51·22 and the local charge 48·78. The same general results were arrived at if they excluded the expenditure for the training of teachers as being a national object, the burden of which should not fall on the locality. In 1900–1 the State aid was 46·74 per cent., the charge on the locality 53·26. Four years later the position was reversed, the State aid being 50·17 as against that of the locality, which was 41·83. The contribution of the State to general expenditure was 29 per cent. as against a local contribution of 12·26 per cent. He suggested that in the memorials that had been prepared the whole question had been treated on a rather narrow basis. It had been discussed as if it were simply a matter of expenditure of and grants to school boards. Nearly one-ninth of the school population of Scotland was taught in voluntary schools. Any increase of grants to school boards in years past had necessitated an increase of grant to those schools also. Furthermore, only half of the higher grade schools in the country were under the school boards and additional assistance given to the school boards for the purposes of education would necessitate an increase of grants to other schools rendering the same service to the nation. Lastly, the most expensive part of Scottish education, the continuation classes at the central institutions, were not under the management of the school boards. Even if they took school boards alone and reckoned every item of expenditure incurred, such as the rent of offices, salaries of officers, and so forth, as part of local contribution and not part of State grants, the general conclusion would not be substantially altered. The grants for the higher grade schools had not yet been fully taken advantage of. Let them take the following comparison: In 1900–1 the State provided 45·6 per cent and the local authority 54·4. Four years later, viz., 1904–5, the State had advanced to 49·2 against the localities' 50·8. The proportion of State grants was in reality normal. On the whole it was inevitable that State grants should have kept pace in recent years with the additional expenditure imposed by the State, and further, that a set of grants should have been made available sufficient to meet expenditure not already in sight. Let them take, for instance, the new regulations for teachers. Under those regulations the school boards would be relieved of the maintenance of junior students, and on the other hand school boards would receive for the instruction of junior students at approved centres grants for more than double, and approximating to three times, the amount of what they at present received for the instruction of pupil teachers. There were two points on the question of expenditure which remained. It was possible that while the proportion of Scotland was, as a whole, satisfactory, certain localities bore a disproportionate burden. He might say that that very question was receiving at the present time the serious consideration of the Department with a view to seeing whether some more equitable scheme might not be formulated. The second point was that it was possible, though the proportion in the past had been maintained or even exceeded, that that proportion was in itself inadequate and should be revised, either upon broad general grounds in the interest of the community out of consideration for the due proportion as between State aid and the income of the schools. This question would also receive careful consideration, and representations would be made, if necessary, to the Treasury. In the meantime he ought to mention that the Treasury had consented to a measure of relief to extra necessitous school boards in Scotland, viz., those who required to levy a rate of over 1s. 6d. in the £, on similar terms to those which would be granted to similar districts in England. That came as a Treasury subvention in consequence of the subventions of England under the Bill. [AN HON. MEMBER: You are not using any part of your own money for that purpose.] The right hon. Member explained that it was not Scotch money. Continuing, he said he would endeavour to show where they stood in the matter of public education in Scotland. There was, of course, an ample field for further development. There was the higher grade school system which was not yet complete. It must be gradually developed, but it would not be complete until all those facilities were within reach of the pupils who wished to take advantage of them. It was extremely desirable not only that greater use and advantage should be taken of the higher grade school in the case of pupils who had not left school, but also that advantage should be taken of continuation schools in the case of pupils who had left the day schools. In many other countries the education of the people did not stop at the age of fourteen, but continued in later years, the people giving not the whole time, but portions of their time to it. It seemed to him that the time had almost, if not altogether arrived, when consideration might be given to the suggestion which had already been made, viz., that some discretion, some power, should be given to school boards to compel attendance at the evening continuation classes, at the same time giving powers to exempt pupils who could not, for good reasons, attend. In that way they might advance gradually and slowly in the direction of prolonging the education of the people.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities), congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on his clear statement, and was glad that he had found no reason to depart from the main policy of the Department. There was scarcely an item in the Estimates which did not remind him of some past struggle with the Treasury, and he could promise the right hon. Gentleman support in his efforts to secure the rights of Scotland in educational matters. He was glad that the right hon. Gentleman had paid a very deserving tribute to the policy initiated by Lord Dunedin. He trusted that if there were any reasons for complaint in the future that Scotland had not been treated with sufficient liberality, it would not be the Secretary for Scotland or the Department over which he presided that would be to blame. He was fully in accord with the Minute produced by the right hon. Gentleman in regard to the training of teachers, though he regretted that, in deference to more or less well-informed criticism, he had not had the courage to carry out his intentions fully, but had withdrawn a certain part of the regulations which he originally put forward. In dealing with those regulations he wished to allude to one sort of criticism which had been too frequently used with regard to this and other regulations. Could the Department find any better way of taking the country into its confidence than by issuing a Minute for full and free criticism? The Minute was issued in draft, and that fact was found fault with and discussed at various meetings and in various journals. He would recall to the right hon. Gentleman an experience of his own. About fourteen years ago there was a certain considerable sum of money that had to be distributed in some way or other. There was much doubt as to how it should be distributed, and as a fair and reasonable way of taking the country into its confidence, the Government of the day issued a Memorandum in draft for which he was himself more or less responsible. That Memorandum was discussed in this House by some with full intelligence, and by others with no understanding whatever. One gentleman, who was no longer a Member of this House, denounced the Memorandum in most unmeasured terms, and declared that whatever scheme might be invented for distributing the money none could be worse or more absurd than the one put forward in the Memorandum. At the time he happened to be in a certain part of this Chamber, and the hon. Member he referred to came and asked him if he had a copy of that Memorandum, which he said he had never read. That was the fate which met a good many Memoranda, which were often criticised before they had been read. [Cries of "Oh, oh!"] The abolition of the pupil-teacher system could not come too soon, and he regretted that the end of it had been to some extent postponed. He was glad that, in a lurking corner of the Minute, it had been provided that although the probationers disappeared in name they remained in substance, and even this partial disappearance was due to criticisms which were not always well informed. He felt bound here to allude to one reflection which the right hon. Gentleman had made upon training colleges. They were all aware of the excellent work which had been done by the training colleges carried on by the Churches. He was not aware that there was any serious complaint in regard to the training colleges thoroughout Scotland, or of the work they had done. They were carried on in a most liberal spirit, and the reason for reconstructing the system was not that the denominational system of training had failed, but it was due to an entirely different cause. There were two ways of training teachers. Some of them were taken at an early age and made pupil-teachers. They then passed on to the training colleges, but they never associated with those who were preparing for other professions, and they emerged from the colleges without having had an opportunity of mixing with a wide body of students. This was felt to be an improper training, and so there had been added the other way by which the teachers entered the University and carried on their instruction along with the ordinary students of the University. Those two systems undoubtedly worked one against the other. One system was carried on in institutions specially supported by the State, which, by their nature were not allowed to admit any other students than those who were preparing for the teaching profession. The other system gave certain support to the students at Universities carrying on their general work. The question they had to consider was how to prevent the overlapping of the two systems and the Minute was intended to do this. He regretted that the right hon. Gentleman seemed to have found a reason for the new system in a doubt as to the efficacy of the work done by the training colleges, and in their denominational character.

MR. SINCLAIR: No.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said he was pleased to have that denial. He was glad to hear there was to be a grant to school boards in necessitous districts in Scotland as an equivalent to the £135,000 which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had announced was to be given to necessitous schools in England.

MR. SINCLAIR: It is equivalent in the sense that we are claiming for Scotland equal treatment; that is to say, school boards in the same position in Scotland will receive the same aid.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said he understood that the sum was to balance the English grant of £135,000. The necessitous districts were more numerous in Scotland than in England, and the grant to Scotland ought to be larger than it would be if it was fixed on the basis of population. But further, in recent years the grants to University colleges in England and Wales had risen from £15,000 to £100,000. Why was there nothing to correspond to those grants upon this Vote? He knew they would be told that in the Universities Act of 1889 they accepted a certain sum in lieu of their claims. Nothing could be more unfair than to quote that Act against them. The words of Section 28 of that Act were—

> "And the sum granted in pursuance of this Act shall be deemed to be in full discharge of all past and present claims."

The grants to which he was referring were new since the year 1889. This was a matter of simple justice. It was quite true that they had £30,000 under the Local Taxation Act of 1892, but that came from money which belonged to Scotland, and was not drawn from the National Exchequer in any sense whatever. Under the English Education Bill, which was now under the consideration of the House, £1,000,000 annually was promised to carry out certain regulations in England, and more than £100,000 of that sum would come from Scottish pockets. They must insist that a corresponding sum should be given to Scotland. It would not do for the Treasury to say that they would consider the Scottish claims as they were put forward. They must clearly understand what claims were to be admitted, and see that they were admitting them upon a similar foundation both for England and Scotland. Let the Committee consider what was going on. They were adding more grants in England for training colleges. The other day he noticed that the President of the Board of Education had announced that the secondary education grants in England were to be largely increased. As far as Scotland was concerned, they were told to put forward their claims, and the Department would see what they were worth. He would remind the Committee, however, that while the rate for secondary education in England was limited to 1d. in the pound, the rate levied for secondary education by Scottish school boards frequently amounted to from 8d. to 10d. in the pound. Therefore they claimed that, whatever increase there might be in the grants made for secondary education in England, there should be at least a similar increase in the grants to Scotland. He hoped the Government would do something to remedy the grievance of Scotland in regard to the granting of pensions and gratuities to teachers. He wished particularly to refer to this question, because not only were the teachers, but Scotland as a whole was suffering under a serious grievance in this matter. When the Superannuation Act of 1887 was before the House the Scottish Education Department were anxious that that measure should not in any way curtail the powers of school boards under the Act of 1872. A different view, however, was taken by the Government, and, unfortunately, after having fought the question with some pertinacity they found that an arrangement had been come to between the National Union in England and the representatives of the teachers of Scotland and the powers of the Scottish school boards were curtailed. At the time he thought that was a mistake, and he had never since altered his opinion in regard to it. He thought that the powers given to the school boards in regard to this question under the Act of 1872 ought to have been preserved. It should be remembered that the Act of 1872 was not an elementary education Act, but an Act for the education of the whole people of Scotland, and not one line of the Act restricted it to elementary education. He thought it would have astonished Scotsmen in 1872, and above all the framers of that Act, if they had thought that the average pension of the teachers at any school in Scotland would be not more than £32 or £34 a year. One reason why he regretted that the Bill laid before Parliament by the late Government was not passed was that it proposed to alter that anomaly, and to give to school boards the powers they had under the Act of 1870. He trusted that if this provision could not be put in a comprehensive Education Bill it might be embodied in a Bill of one clause. There were in the Estimates Votes for the Scottish Museum, the National Gallery of Scotland, and the Royal Society of Scotland. It would not be in order to enter at present into the discussion of these items, but he wished to point out to the Secretary for Scotland that it would be for the convenience, not only of the Committee and the Department but of Scottish administration generally, that all these items should come under the Education Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The question of the form of future Estimates is not in order. Hon. Members can only discuss the matter to which the Vote now before the Committee refers.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said he quite understood that. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would consider the suggestion he had made. Referring to the constitution of the Department, he wished to recall a discussion which took place earlier in the session with regard to the salary of the Minister who was at the head of the Department. He listened to that discussion with very considerable surprise. He had hoped that one of Lord Crewe's colleagues in the Cabinet, and most of all the Secretary for Scotland, would rise to point out that after all the Lord President of the Council was at the head of this Department and responsible for the whole Vote now before the Committee, and for the whole conduct of Scottish educational affairs. He thought that would have been a very good answer to the remarks as to the inadequate work assigned to Lord Crewe. The fact was apparently unknown to his colleagues that Lord Crewe was at the head of and entirely responsible for Scottish Education.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): Did Lord Crewe know himself?

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said his surprise would be still greater if Lord Crewe did not know. The hon. Member for Ross-shire and the hon. Member for Sutherland were both much perplexed over the payment of a salary to the Lord President, being unable to find out any reason why it was paid. The Lord President was responsible for every one of the Answers given in this House in regard to Scottish education.

MR. WEIR was understood to say that the hon. Member himself, when he held the office of Secretary of the Scottish Education Department, prepared the Answers which were read in this House. The hon. Member was paid to do that work.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said the hon. Member had shown himself entirely ignorant of how the work of the Department was conducted. There were something like 800 to 1,000 letters per week to be answered in the Department, and as the subordinate officer responsible for that work, he received a living wage. But the responsibility for excogitating the Scottish education policy of the Government belonged to the Lord President as head of the Department, and he was surely worthy of his salary. He had nothing more to say on that point. He congratulated the Secretary for Scotland on the satisfactory statement he had made, and on the fact that he had given generous recognition of the work of his predecessors Lord Balfour and Lord Dunedin. He wished the right hon. Gentleman success in connection with the future work of the Department.

*MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire) said the first impression made on his mind by the speech of the Secretary for Scotland was that he had succeeded most admirably in giving a *rechauffé* of the Memoranda and Circulars and Reports prepared by the hon. Member for the Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities. He had very little trouble in tracing the intimate connection between the speech and these productions of Dover House. The speeches of the Secretary for Scotland and of the hon. Gentleman opposite were both very laudatory of the existing state of affairs. According to the right hon. Gentleman nothing could be better than the present state of Scottish education. He thought hon. Members from Scotland would have preferred to hear something original from the right hon. Gentleman instead of a mere *precis* of the Memoranda issued by the hon. Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, who for several years had been largely responsible for directing the policy of Scottish education. The right hon. Gentleman had told the Committee that there had been no difference of opinion on the part of Members of the previous Parliament in regard to the policy which was now being pursued. He found from reference to *Hansard* that there had been serious differences of opinion amongst Members of Parliament in regard to the policy of Scottish education during the past few years, and in particular in regard to the constitutional aspect of the question. It was to that matter he desired to draw the attention of the Committee. He had heard the opinions of a large number of men and women who were deeply interested in Scottish education, and he ventured to think that their opinions were at least worthy of being fairly put before the Committee. A leading Scottish newspaper had described the present school board system as a farce, so far as effective control of education was concerned, as the boards simply existed to carry out the orders of the Education Department situated in London, whose powers were exercised in the most arbitrary manner. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that there was nothing to prevent a promising pupil from entering the higher grade department of a board school. Did the right hon. Gentleman not know that under the most recent orders the aid grant to a higher grade department was not made unless the course of instruction was given in a separate building? If the higher grade department was under the same roof the grant was withdrawn. In regard to continuation classes the system pursued of having a hard and fast curriculum had been found to be an impediment to the use of the schools by the working class—the very class for whom they were intended. The right hon. Gentleman had made a remark to the effect that the pupil teachers had abolished themselves. He did not desire to discuss that question at the present moment, because he had not had sufficient time to study the revised draft of the Minute. But he would say that although the pupil teacher system had not been technically abolished it was practically wiped out.

MR. SINCLAIR said that there was nothing whatever to prevent the school boards continuing the system during this financial year.

*MR. SMEATON: Yes, this year. But after?

MR. SINCLAIR said that what would be done after was for future consideration. What he had put before the Committee was precisely the fact. The school boards had full discretion to employ pupil teachers until the arrangements for another year were considered.

*MR. SMEATON said there was no use shirking the question. The right hon. Gentleman knew perfectly well that the abolition of the pupil teacher system was coming on.

MR. SINCLAIR said that the policy of the Government went no further than he had stated.

*MR. SMEATON thought that everyone who had studied the first draft and the final draft of the Minute would be of his opinion. What he wished, however, more particularly to draw the attention of the Committee to was the unconstitutional and in some respects the illegal action of the Scottish Education Department in its administration of Scottish education. For the past ten years the Department had been practically legislating by Minute and circular without the consent of the representatives of the Scottish people whose money it was using in promotion of its unauthorised legislation. The Department had certain legal functions to perform under the Scottish Education Act of 1872. These were simply the administration of the Parliamentary grants given for specific purposes under the Act. It had no authority to alter the educational policy of Scotland as set forth in that Act. He maintained that the Department had been usurping the powers reserved to Parliament and using the financial resources at its disposal as a lever to compel the school boards to consent to an alteration of the old educational policy of Scotland. The principal objects of the Act of 1872 were to devolve the entire management and control of Scottish Education on popularly elected school boards and to stimulate those boards by Parliamentary grants of money to be distributed by the Department. In the distribution of those grants the condition imposed was that the standard of education which existed in Scotland in 1872 should not be lowered in the parish or public schools. The author of that Act, Lord Young, knew full well how admirably the old system had served the nation, and that system, re-established in 1872, had never been surpassed for efficiency and results by any system in the world. The interest and co-operation of the parents in the schools was a marked feature in the old system, and that was continued under the school boards. A new and democratic franchise was created, and every man and woman whose name appeared on the valuation roll had a vote in the election of the school boards. It was recognised that education was different from other branches of local and muncipal government, and that the parents had an interest in the education of the children apart altogether from their interests as ratepayers. Hence the creation by the Act of *ad hoc* boards for education alone and the close touch of the parents and ratepayers with the school management. Each parish had the exclusive control of its own system of education, secular and religious. Of late years, the Education Department had steadily undermined the control and initiative of the school boards; it had steadily encroached on its statutory powers and centralised all power in itself. The Department had done this by diverting, he had almost said perverting, the large funds at its disposal for the maintenance of the old parochial system, to the promotion—he might say the compulsion—of a new policy of its own, to the detriment of the education given to the children in the board schools. He admitted that many of the regulations of the Department for the encouragement of higher education among the favoured few were admirable. In fact, what had given the Department its strong position was that the advance of higher education was absolutely necessary, and that Parliament had not, as yet, provided any machinery for controlling the Department or laid down any line of policy in an Act for the distribution of the money granted from time to time for secondary education. Hence the grip which the Department had fastened on the school boards. The tactics of the Department were self-evident and crafty enough. It suggested a new curriculum and gave high grants for it, although it allowed the old curriculum to remain optional, for a time, but the latter was finally abolished and with it the grants, so that the school boards had to fall into line in respect of the new curriculum or lose all grants.

Naturally the school boards were eager to get the money even on conditions which they disliked and disapproved. The Department was absolutely master, and said "must" where it formerly said "may". The parish schools of Scotland had from 1696 down to 1872 given instruction in both elementary and secondary subjects, and their standard was always high. The national system which was continued under the Act of 1872 was never limited to elementary instruction. It included higher teaching, and for 200 years the parish schools had been the direct feeders of the Universities. It was the boast of Scotland that the poorest of her sons could and did qualify in the parish schools at little expense to themselves, and none to the State, for entering straight into the Universities. It was this combination of primary and secondary education in the same school under the same roof which had maintained the remarkable efficiency and high standard of the Scottish parish schools. He wished to say that he quite exonerated the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland from any participation in the reactionary policy of of the last few years which he most heartily condemned. That was a policy initiated under the late Tory Government. It never was the policy of Liberal Governments to crib, cabin, and confine education in Scottish parish schools. He had ventured to hope that when the Liberal Government came into power they would take a new departure in this regard, and he confessed the disappointment which he felt that they had not done so. The indictment which he brought against the Department was that instead of maintaining, as required by clause 67 of the Act of 1872, the combination in the parish schools of primary and secondary education, their policy had been to lower the standard of the parish schools by confining the instruction given in them to elementary subjects, and concentrating the higher education in certain selected centres not accessible to the children of the working classes, who were thereby deprived of their birthright. But this retrograde policy did not end there. Even in many of the selected higher schools the Department was working to compel a uniform curriculum designed to impede preparation for the University, ignoring the great principle advocated by John Stuart Mill that the very life of a liberal education depended on diversity of curriculum; and it was moreover aiming at confining University preparation to what were called higher class schools, which were altogether out of reach of the poor, and were intended only for the children of the well-to-do. This was one of the characteristics of the late Government—sacrifice of the interests of the masses to the interests of the classes. Even in the continuation classes the same characteristic was apparent; cast iron uniformity was being insisted on by the Department, and resulted in many working men and women being debarred from getting the benefit which these classes were designed to give. The Education Department was thus guilty of a threefold contravention of educational policy as established by custom and law—in usurping the powers both of Parliament and of school boards, practically denying to working class children the right, enjoyed for over 200 years, to an education fitting them for the University, and in lowering the standard of education in the board schools. This retrograde policy of the Department— which must eventually result in depressing the condition of the working classes—had been in operation for about ten years, and was being rapidly consummated. Before 1896 it encouraged higher grade classes in the parish schools by giving special grants for specific subjects, and the school boards responded by employing a superior class of teacher. Since then, however, this policy has been reversed, and the Department now aimed at isolating higher education in certain selected centres, depleting the ordinary board schools and withdrawing grants from higher grade departments, injuring the elementary education in them by necessitating the appointment of an inferior class of teachers, and removing the stimulus of the presence and example of a few bright advanced pupils. The Department had succeeded to a large extent in this reactionary policy by manipulating the grants. Formerly, special grants were made to school boards for specific advanced subjects. Since 1896, however, these grants had, he believed, been withdrawn, and now they were given simply for average attendance as in England. The incentive to higher education had thus been taken away, and the standard of the parish school lowered. The last important matter in which the Department had been acting unconstitutionally, and in his opinion illegally, was in regard to pupil teachers. He had not yet been able to study the final draft of the new Regulation for the training of teachers. But he understood that it embodied in substance the policy of the original draft. That policy, in a word, was to abolish, after a certain date, pupil teachers as recognised by the Act of 1872, and to substitute for them a class of nominated probationers, who were to be taken away and trained in selected centres under committees. Under the Act of 1872, the pupil teacher was an integral part of the board school establishment, and, apart altogether from the wisdom or unwisdom of the proposed change, no Department had the power or right to abolish what the law had established, without an Act of Parliament. As to the merits of the change, he hesitated to give a final opinion. But of this there could be little doubt, that it would deprive the working classes of the opportunity of entering the teaching profession; it would largely increase the difficulty and cost of staffing the schools; it would raise the rates; it would certainly not afford the excellent individual practical training which the present method afforded, and it would destroy the democratic character of the teaching profession and of Scottish education, by introducing class distinctions in the school staff—a kind of distinction altogether foreign to the traditional educational policy of Scotland. Surely it would be far better to take the simple and not very costly step of enlarging the accommodation of the training colleges so as to allow entry for training to the hundreds of male and female pupil teachers who, year by year, were refused admission simply from want of room. The purpose of his Motion was this. The Scottish Education Department had during all these years been pursuing a course contrary both to custom and to law, and to established policy, and contrary also to a large body of the best informed Scottish opinion, including the opinion of several of the highest educational officials. This must be arrested, and the whole field of Scottish education surveyed by representatives of the people in touch with national and local opinion. At present the school boards were being overridden by what were called "My Lords" of the Committee of the Privy Council for Education. But he asked, Who were "My Lords?" From the answer given by the right hon. Gentleman to several questions it appeared, at any rate, that "My Lords" never met in Committee on Education, that there was, in fact, no working Committee at all, that the whole thing was a fiction. "My Lords" were simply the Secretary of the Scottish Education Department sitting at his desk in Dover House. It was a one-man Department; and Scottish education, instead of being administered by its popular local school boards, was controlled by one well-meaning despot sitting in London. This was certainly never contemplated by the law, and the nation resented it. It was a sham which a Liberal Government must put an end to. What was now needed was a National Board of Education for Scotland—such as Wales was about to have—elected by the people and in touch with them, sitting in Edinburgh and controlling the Department, and a carefully planned and comprehensive Act dealing with every aspect of Scottish education, laying down clear lines of policy and leaving the National Board to carry out this policy with the aid of Parliamentary grants, distributed through the agency, but not at the discretion of the Department. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give them an assurance, and guarantee that this course would be taken at the earliest possible moment. He begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,122,028, be granted for the said Service." (*Mr. Smeaton.*)

*MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) said that at the present time they had a most important Minute on the Table of the House, a Minute as important as an Act of Parliament. Speaking as a county Member, he wished to draw attention to the aspect of the Minute so far as it concerned the counties. In the form in which it was orginally introduced, it would have, no doubt, worked well in the towns, but he believed it would have been entirely a dead letter in the country, and he was glad indeed to see the change his right hon. friend had made in leaving the pupil teacher system alone in the country districts for the present—not that he was an advocate of the pupil teacher system, but because had that not been done, he believed no teachers would have been drawn from Scottish country lads. Instead of pupil teachers they were to have junior students who must attend secondary schools. Secondary schools, however, were not as common as blackberries; in the county he represented there was only one. Before the pupil went to a secondary school he must also have an intermediate certificate, which meant that for three years he must attend an intermediate school. They, too, were by no means to be found in every parish. Therefore, before a country boy could become a teacher under the new system something entirely revolutionary must be done. Whether that was to take the form of the establishment of further schools he did not know, but he believed it was the intention to establish a sort of bursary system by which a lad in one parish could attend a school in some other parish. He very much wished to see such a system established, but they must have money before they could do that, and the £25,000 spoken of would be a mere trifle. Therefore, if the system was going to work, one of the first essentials was that they should have more money. He was a little disappointed with the tone of his right hon. friend with regard to getting money from the Treasury. The other day a letter was published, signed by himself, the hon. Member for Dumfries Burghs, and the hon. Member for Leith Burghs. It was an admirable letter. The proof of the pudding was in the eating. It had already effected a large part of its purpose, because he understood they were going to get a grant for necessitous schools. His right hon. friend must try and get all the money he could for them from the Treasury. What he must venture to do, if such a thing might be suggested, was to make himself disagreeable. It would be a difficult task, no doubt, but he must remember that the Treasury had a hide of iron and a heart of stone. There was only one other point to which he wished to allude, and that was the question of retiring allowances for the teachers. The object of this Minute was to get teachers in Scotland, and he was perfectly certain that it would be absolutely futile so long as these beggarly allowances were given. Teachers had to retire at the age of sixty-five, and the allowances they got were so shabby and poor as to keep people out of the profession. The Superannuation Act had been a very great disappointment. When that Act was before this House he moved as an Amendment that school boards should be allowed to supplement these allowances, and though the Amendment was supported by the vast majority of Scottish Members on both sides of the House, it was unfortunately defeated. It would not be in order now to discuss an Amendment of that character, but what he wished to ask was whether in the meantime something could not be done in that direction. Since the Superannuation Act had been passed 118 teachers had retired. Some of those were dead. There were only ninety-one now alive. The average retiring allowance was £32, half that given to a policeman. He ventured to suggest that something might be done by the Department to enlarge this allowance. He believed so small a sum as £2,000 would do a great deal in that direction, and he ventured to suggest that some such sum might be taken from the money not yet allocated and applied to this purpose. He was not specially championing the cause of the teachers. He considered it as an educational question, and the Scottish school boards were alive to the necessity of it. He believed 250 school boards were now trying, he would not say to evade the Act, but, to get round it by themselves paying the contribution which the teachers had to pay to ensure this retiring allowance. This was of the greatest importance educationally, and it was a matter to which he hoped his right hon. friend would give attention.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire) said that one of the first objections to the regulations issued with respect to the training of teachers was that they dealt with matters which ought not to have been dealt with in a Minute at all, because the House was thus deprived of an opportunity of criticising in detail the proposals of the Government and of addressing themselves to the points which they would wish modified. They had the Minute thrown at their heads, and they either had to take it or vote against the Government. That, he considered, was a very unfortunate position. There were some regulations which were good and some which were bad, and he would remind the right hon. Gentleman that, whilst, no doubt, continuity of policy was a good thing, a general election had taken place, and a new Party had been returned to power with a mandate to make Scottish education democratic. That election condemned the whole educational system of the late Government, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would respond to the mandate given and say that the traditional policy of Scotland, under which there should be available to every boy and girl the opportunity of continuing his education through the elementary stage right up to the university, should receive effect at the hands of the Government, and that the policy of doing away with the parish school system and of gathering the children into large centres should cease. They were told that the policy of the abolition of the pupil teacher was designed to increase the supply of teachers. That was a remarkable statement in view of the last Report of the Committee of the Council of Education for Scotland, in which it was stated that whatever sources of supply might be added, it was not proposed to abolish the pupil teachers. In the original draft the pupil teacher was in so many words abolished. Those words disappeared in the final regulations, but there remained a very important provision which said that by 1914 the pupil teacher would be as extinct as the dodo. What young man or woman in Scotland was going to become a pupil teacher when told that by 1914 he would not be recognised as part of the staff of the school, and would cease to have any *status* at all, unless he became a certificated teacher? The manifest result would be to dry up the supply. He did not know whether the statement that the supply was now drying up was well founded in fact, but for the last four or five years pupil teachers had remained 4,000 in number. What wonder was it that they did not increase if the Department gave them to understand that they were going to be abolished, and that persons were to be placed at a disadvantage if they took that method of entering the profession? Unless they opened the door to every working man's family they would restrict the area of supply, and do away with the democratic element in Scottish education and the Scottish teaching profession. If this proposal of the Scottish Education Department were carried out, it would prevent the children of the artisan and the working man from entering the profession, and it was from the working classes that the great bulk of successful teachers had been obtained. Under the present system such persons were welcomed, and received a full development of any aptitude they had for teaching, and he sincerely hoped the right hon. Gentleman would maintain that system without any discouraging expressions. He trusted that no Scottish Member would encourage the Government in the belief that in abolishing the pupil teachers they were following the real inclinations and true opinions of the Scottish people.

*MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.) said he had listened with great interest and attention to the very full account of the position of Scottish Education given by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman when he said that Scottish Members, however they might disagree upon other points, were united on one subject, namely, the desire to see a steady and continuous improvement in the educational system of Scotland. He was glad that the right hon Gentleman during the time he had been Secretary for Scotland had noticed the steady improvement all desired to see. The hon. Member for Stirlingshire had accused the Secretary for Scotland of not having a policy of his own, but of relying on the policy laid down by the hon. Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities. He however, thought the right hon. Gentleman would be very well advised indeed to adhere as closely as he possibly could to any policy laid down by so high an authority as the hon. Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities. The hon. Member for Stirlingshire had declared that the policy was a retrograde policy and had expressed deep disappointment, but, at the same time, he had endorsed what was said by the Secretary for Scotland, that education in Scotland was in a very flourishing condition and improving every day.

*MR. SMEATON said he had referred to the average attendance only.

*MR. COCHRANE said that if the average attendance had increased it showed that a larger proportion of the population was attending school.

*MR. SMEATON said the hon. Gentleman perhaps forgot that there was a law which compelled every child up to a certain age to attend school and that therefore mere figures of attendance did not justify the assertion—which by the way he had not made—that education in Scotland was in a flourishing condition.

*MR. COCHRANE said that fortunately it was not his duty to defend the Estimates. He was merely congratulating Scottish Members upon the rosy statement made by the Secretary for Scotland. The main point, so far as he could gather from the course of the discussion, to which hon. Members took exception was the policy laid down by the right hon. Gentleman as regarded pupil teachers. It was complained that he desired to abolish the present system of pupil teachers and substitute another system. The argument used against the proposal was that it would prevent the sons of working men from rising to the teaching profession. He did not believe it could possibly have that effect, because careful provisions were made whereby promising pupils who desired to enter the teaching profession could get that measure of education which would best fit them to impart education to others. Was it not the better method that they should themselves first devote time to acquiring the most modern and best means of conveying instruction to others before they endeavoured to impart that which they had not had the opportunity of acquiring? He believed that under the regulations of the Scottish Education Department it would still be open to the humblest to rise in the future as in the past; but in the interests of the education of the children let them advance with the times, and see that the teachers had every possible means of acquiring the best education to enable them to discharge their duties in the most efficient manner. All hon. Members could unite in seeing that the Treasury dealt in a fair and reasonable manner with their requirements. They could not get education for nothing. They must have money, and whatever their opinions might be as to the way in which the money was applied, no one would complain that money spent on education in Scotland was in any way wasted. He was glad to note that there was to be a small additional grant given to necessitous schools, and he hoped all Scottish Members would see that it was adequate, and fully equivalent to the similar grant given to schools in England. Then, again, as regarded the fresh contribution of £1,000,000 that was to be given to schools in England, as £100,000 of that would be contributed by Scotland, he hoped that Scottish Members would unite in getting Scotland her proper share. He agreed with the hon. Member for Kincardineshire on the question of the superannuation of teachers, which had become somewhat acute in Scotland. The evil was brought to the notice of the late Government, who also desired to meet the grievance. Every day they imposed upon the teachers in Scotland higher duties and responsibilities. The teachers had the care of the children from three to fourteen years of age — their most impressionable years. Was it wise or right to offer to the teachers after forty years of arduous work a pension, the average of which was £32 4s. 6d., some being as low as £15 or £17 a year? It was half the amount that was given to a police constable for serving twenty-five years. He felt that at any rate the Committee were in unison and sympathy with regard to this question, and if the right hon. Gentleman felt that a short Bill would meet the circumstances he was perfectly certain that the Opposition would not take any hostile attitude. There were two points that had not been touched upon in the debate. He had had the honour with several other hon. Gentlemen of serving on the Royal Commission on Physical Training in Scotland. They made very careful inquiries into the conditions of school children in Scotland, and it would be impossible to imagine a more pitiable account than that which was brought to them from some of the large cities and towns. The Commission made moderate recommendations; they did not suggest any wild proposals for feeding children at the expense of someone other than their parents. He did not think they wanted that in Scotland. But what they proposed was that accommodation and means for enabling children to be properly fed should be provided in each school or at a centre, but that, except for a limited sum to provide the necessary equipment, no part of the cost should be thrown on the rates. There were few districts in which concerts or other entertainments by the children could not be successfully organised to raise money. The Commission found that the spirit of independence still existed in Scotland, and that the people, so long as they could afford to feed their children, as they generally did sufficiently and well, did not want to ask any others to do it for them. The other point related to the sanitary condition of the schools in Scotland, and there again they had evidence brought before them that many of the most recently and most expensively constructed schools were in a far from sanitary condition. He hoped they might get from the Secretary for Scotland or the Lord Advocate some assurance that matters of such vital importance to the health and welfare of the children were receiving the attention of the Department, and that as regarded the medical supervision of the children the Government intended to take means to see that everything possible was done. The Report of the Commission on that point contained some valuable information. They appointed some fully qualified gentlemen to inspect certain schools in the populous parts of Scotland, and they reported that very little attention would save the eyesight of thousands of children, and that very little attention would prevent advanced stages of phthisis. Upon questions of this kind he thought Scottish Members might present a united front, and when he saw how kind Scotland was to the Cabinet, which had become a sort of asylum for Scottish Members, he thought they had a claim that the least they could do was not to allow these questions to fall into the background.

THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs) said the debate had been of much practical interest. He wished to acknowledge the services which his hon. friend had given upon the Physical Training Commission. He was afraid that education was very often made to rest upon a physical basis which was quite inadequate to support it. Unfortunately under our present system we had to proceed with the facilities for training the mind without considering the state of the body. Revelations had been made by the Committees on Physical Training and Physical Deterioration which were calculated to shock the mind not only of every educational reformer but also every social reformer. The state of these young creatures who were placed together in the same room was sometimes too appalling to be described. Some of them suffered from defects of vision and of hearing and other ailments, but he would give hon. Members the assurance that the Scottish Department would not in any respect neglect the duty of very carefully weighing and considering both those Reports. Whenever his hon. friend opposite declared that anything was wild in the extreme he generally took a fancy to it, and when he declared that proposals for feeding the children were wild and extreme, he began to think there must be something in them worth considering. With regard to finance, perhaps the Deputy-Chairman would permit him to say that his services on this subject in the past had been absolutely invaluable and his utterances would always furnish Scotsmen in search of a financial grievance with ample material. He did think, however, that the British Treasury was not going to behave niggardly with regard to Scotland, and the Committee might rely upon having the very sympathetic ear of the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to Scottish demands. There were no wild cat schemes floating about in Scotland; every object was well considered by the Department which made the demand. With regard to the pupil teacher question, he would say frankly that he thought it would have been a national disaster if suddenly or in any inconsiderate way they had abolished the system of pupil teachership in Scotland. What was the situation at present? In regard to all the engagements under the system of recent years, the broad fact remained that out of these teachers in Scotland one in five was a pupil teacher. Therefore to abolish them would be almost a revolutionary act, and this showed the advantage of public criticism. The clause now in force provided that pupil teachers from July 1st, 1906, or prior to that date, might continue to serve under the terms of their engagement, and be reckoned as part of the school staff. Hon. Members should contrast that with the previous Minute.

The House of Commons quite understood that those Minutes were framed in a transition period. The hon. Member for Banffshire had called attention to what he thought was still a matter worthy of consideration, that after the year 1914 no uncertificated teacher would be recognised as a part of the staff except as assistant teachers. He would promise his hon. friend that that matter would be carefully considered by the Scottish Department. He could assure him that there was a general desire to be loyal to the spirit of the continuance of the pupil teacher system throughout this Minute, and if there was anything in it which was inconsistent, they would see that that genuine spirit was realised in the technical terms of the Minute. He hoped the Committee would not consider that that was an unsatisfactory view.

MR. BLACK: What means will the Committee have of judging of the sufficiency of that proposal?

MR. THOMAS SHAW said he could only say that the Education Department would have to frame alterations and they would take the earliest opportunity of considering the matter.

MR. C. E. PRICE asked if the new form of the Minute would be laid upon the Table.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said that if any amendment of the Minute in the direction indicated by his hon. friend was found to be necessary, it would have to be made in the form of a supplementary Minute which would be laid on the Table of the House, and would be open to the criticism of hon. Members. There was a very great deal to sympathise with in the speech of the hon. Member for Stirlingshire. The hon. Member had raised a question which had been raised over and over again—namely, the outstanding controversy in Scotland, which he had described as the contest between the democracy in Scotland and the forces of the bureaucracy in London. That was what it meant. The Secretary for Scotland and the Government were very anxious to give every facility possible for the fuller expression of the mind of Scotland upon educational subjects. They recognised that the issue of Minutes from an office in virtue of general words in the statute which gave them Parliamentary effect, but without any opportunity for full and effective control either in Scotland or in this House, was a power which could be accompanied—he did not say it had been—with not a little abuse. The Government thought the time had come for taking the public more into their confidence. As to the general question of the effect of the Minutes, he thought his hon. friend the Member for North Ayshire made a great mistake in attributing the enormous progress with regard to the most excellent part of the educational career between twelve and fourteen to something in the history of the Scottish Education Department. No doubt it happened in the history of the Scottish Education Department, but his point was that it was effected by Act of Parliament, and by open discussion in this House. The passing of the Act of 1901 had been far more effective than all the Minutes ever issued, because in the few years that had elapsed since then a net increase of 19,000 scholars had been made between the ages of twelve and fourteen. He rejoiced that this result had been achieved. He knew quite well that all Departments were necessarily apt to fall into the mistake of endeavouring to methodise things too much. The school system of departments and compartments, and the segregation of the various portions of school life could not be rashly superimposed on the fine old traditional system under which all the parish schools and schoolmasters had their highest ambition satisfied in training their best boys and sending them right forward to the university. While he said that, might he say that he did not think the Scottish Education Department had done a better thing than in endeavouring to introduce into that system, not compulsory compartments, but a scheme whereby there could be graduation from one stage of education to another, going on without interrupting the career, and always opening up fresh avenues of advance to the pupil? He had said over and over again that he did not think they would be right in Scotland until they took money out of the matter altogether, in so far as money was an impediment in the career of the humblest in the land towards getting the best education that could be afforded. Here he spoke not as a member of the Government, but he spoke, he hoped, not against the policy of the Government. There were difficulties, he knew, in the way of making secondary education absolutely free. But he considered that all these Minutes must be regarded as steps partially in the dark until a state of affairs was reached when a finger could not be pointed to any Scottish boy or girl who had been cramped in exercising to the full the faculties with which he or she had been endowed by nature. He said that particularly with regard to the remote districts of Scotland, and especially the Hebrides, where the system of education was a contrast between the love of education for its own sake and the financial difficulties which almost saddened the mind. He recalled not one jot or tittle of the criticism which for ten years he had delivered from the Opposition side of the House. His ideals were just the same, and this Minute was in no respect inconsistent with them. If he thought it was a Minute for abolishing the old pupil-teacher system he should condemn it out and out. Certain things would have to be considered in view of the present discussion. For example, it would have to be considered whether junior students should have to pay fees for any part of their instruction. But in all those things he had found that the spirit of the Minutes had been transformed into a desire to help the whole system of Scottish education without obstructing it by any foreign ideals and notions. The whole desire was to transform the system into a higher and better one. They were all very proud that in the discussions of recent years they had never been troubled with the idea of abolishing popular representation and control. No scheme would have lived an hour, even during the darkest time of the last decade, which had proposed the abolition of the Scottish School Board system. It was well to remember when they talked of the career of the pupil-teacher that they must take into account the fact that there was a school board watching over each particular pupil, anxious to provide him or her with facilities for living under the parental roof, and for the development and improvement of that career. These were all branches of one great question. It was with the hope that their education would thrive and push the people along with it that he made the observation to hon. Members sitting round him, that indeed they need have no fear that the spirit of the present Education Department was such as to be antagonistic to most of those ideals which had been expressed in the debate.

*MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs) said he was glad the right hon. Gentleman had considered the question of schools for adults. He was glad that greater interest was being taken in the evening continuation schools, and expressed himself as being in favour of the Minute as amended. These schools were not now called evening schools, but continuation schools. He might mention a school of this sort in Dumfriesshire, where he had the pleasure of distributing the prizes a short time ago. A firm of boilermakers had a continuation school in their works for their own apprentices, and among the men engaged in the works there were some who could teach. Instead of waiting until the evening the firm allowed the apprentices to go to their continuation school in the forenoon when their faculties were at the best. The whole of the community attended at the prize distribution, and he could say that it was one of the most interesting functions in which he had ever taken part. He hoped that other employers would follow that example, and encourage their apprentices to go to the continuation schools. He was extremely glad also to hear the right hon. Gentleman say that he was considering the advisability of the making attendance at continuation schools compulsory until the age of sixteen, for only in that way could the children get full advantage of the training. He shared the dislike of the hon. Member for Stirlingshire for this form of legislation by Minute and Circular. Before he came into the House he had said many hard things about that form of legislation, but since he had been there and saw how Scottish business was transacted he took rather a different view of the subject. Until that day they had not had five minutes of Government time for Scottish business. He did not know who was to blame. He supposed that it was as much the fault of the Scottish Members as of any Minister or official; they did not make as much noise as the Irish Members. Under these circumstances, if they could not get legislation by Act of Parliament, there was no reason why they should not get it by Minute. A good deal of the criticism levelled at the Minute was against the first draft, and not the revised draft. He regretted extremely that that revised draft had not been in the hands of Members until the previous day. He approved strongly of the present form of the Minute, and he congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on having given effect to all the Amendments proposed. He should like to say that there had been great success in submitting the regulations in draft form to the Scottish people for their criticism; and he would suggest that when the right hon. Gentleman came to frame a Bill for Scottish education, he should submit it to the people of Scotland, who could discuss it during the recess. He was sure that it was only in some such way that they would have a satisfactory Scottish Education Bill. There was one relic of the old Minute in its revised form which drew a class distinction between students. If a student went through a training college, paid his own fees, and did not get a bursary or State allowance, he might teach in a primary or secondary school; but if he obtained a bursary or had his fees granted him he could not teach in a secondary school until after two years. He did not think it was fair to put that limitation on young men and women who were clever enough to win bursaries. He was particularly pleased to see that the right hon. Gentleman insisted on opportunities for the further study of geography. The trouble was that at present there was no place where students could get a special course of geography, and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to give the Scottish Geographical Society a good big grant to undertake such a course. The right hon. Gentleman had got the Treasury to agree to a grant of £8 per head for King's students, but he hoped that that grant would soon be increased to £10. He trusted that this Minute would have the desired effect of increasing the supply of teachers, but what was still wanted were higher salaries, greater security of tenure, and better pensions. As to the administrative body that was responsible for Scottish education, it was designated as "My Lords of the Committee of Council of Education." "My Lords" were appointed in February, and a most excellent body of men they were; the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary for the Colonies, the Secretary for War, the Secretary for Scotland, the Lord-Advocate—in fact, all the brilliant men who were now governing the Empire. But he ventured to say that "My Lords" had never met, and that they never would meet. He would suggest that this polite fiction should be given up at once, and that the Secretary for Scotland should be placed at the head of a real Scottish Education Department. He pleaded with the right hon. Secretary for Scotland to magnify his own office, and not to play second fiddle to "My Lords," and that he should soon introduce a Minute that "My Lords" had disestablished themselves. Again he thought that the head office of the Scottish Education Department should be in Edinburgh, and not in London. He had been a Member of the Edinburgh School Board for many years, and he knew that correspondence between the Scottish school boards and the Department in London frequently accentuated differences which might have been minimised by a few minutes conversation. To have the head office of the Department in London was to keep it out of touch with Scottish opinion. It was said that it was necessary that the Department should be near the Treasury; but, after all, money was only asked for once a year, and it would be easy for the heads of the Department to run up to London instead of only making a flying visit from London to Scotland. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would democratise his Department, and bring it down to Scotland. He had almost always looked on the pamphlet by the hon. Member for Mid Lanark on "Subventions to Scotland" as a sort of Shorter Catechism, and he hoped that now that hon. Member was in office he would take every opportunity to help Scotland. The right hon. Gentleman had referred to some figures contained in a memorial sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer about the relative proportion of grants and rates. Those figures did not deal with the local contribution, but with rates. He did not think it was necessary to go at length into that question now, because the plea had been granted by the Treasury and they had consented to give an equivalent grant. The reason the rates in Scotland were down three farthings in the pound on the year was that in consequence of the equivalent aid grant the Scottish school boards had fixed their rates low. The rates were now, however, going up again, and in Glasgow had gone up to the extent of a penny. In regard to educational matters in Scotland, however, there was the greatest need that more money should be wrung from the Treasury. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the money with which they were dealing was not Scottish money. In one sense it was not, it was true, Scottish money, but in another sense it was. It was money which had come out of Scottish pockets, and if it was not used in Scotland it would be used for the purpose of necessitous school districts in England. They had a right to claim more money. They had a right to an equivalent grant in regard to the million which was to be devoted to education under the Education Bill, and they also ought to have sums of money equivalent to the grants which were made to University colleges in England and Wales. While Scotland had in the past led the way in regard to education, of late years, in his judgment, it had not kept pace with other countries. They asked the right hon. Gentleman to see that Scotland would always be in the van in regard to matters of education.

*MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness) wished to inquire what was being done in regard to Gaelic-speaking education. There were a great many thousands of children who did not know any English until they were four or five years of age, when they were taught by teachers who knew no Gaelic. That was most unfair to the children, because their education could not be complete unless it was conveyed in a language which both pupil and teacher understood. He saw nothing in the Report before them which showed that any special attention was being given to Gaelic speaking districts. He should like to see more special education given to the teachers who desired to teach in Gaelic-speaking districts, so that the number of Gaelic-speaking teachers might in their Education Bill be increased. The previous Government provided a special committee for the Highlands; this met with much favour, and he was much disappointed that there was no such arrangement in the proposals now before the House. He wished to ask whether any provision was made in regard to the representatives attending the Committee meetings at the University centres. The representative selected was usually the parish minister, or minister of other denominations, and it was a severe drain on the resources of a man with a limited income to have to go from a remote parish in the Highlands to Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, or St. Andrews, and support himself there for several days. The hon. Member also criticised the pension system in regard to teachers, and declared that the pensions granted were quite inadequate and tended to depreciate the teaching profession in the eyes of the public.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said that the speech of the Lord-Advocate had very much changed the position of matters. He did not refer to the decorative personalities which the right hon. Gentleman was accustomed to use and which he was not concerned to answer.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said he did not understand what his hon. friend referred to. He had simply entered a good-humoured protest and was not conscious that he had indulged in any personalities.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said he was speaking in the recollection of the Committee, who would no doubt recollect the words the right hon. Gentleman used in regard to hon. Members of the House.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said he would not pursue the subject but would leave the matter where his hon. friend left it. His hon. friend had said that the House would recollect and he was sure that no one in the House would think that he had made any personal references of an objectionable character.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said he still maintained his own opinion and adhered to the statement which he had originally made. He wished to point out that it was a grave inconvenience to have the Minister in charge of a particular Vote making one speech while a colleague associated closely with that Minister made a speech which in spirit and in letter was opposed to the speech of the Minister in charge of the Vote. [Cries of "No, no."] He adhered to that statement. The Secretary for Scotland had said that he adhered to the Minute, that he had changed it without full conviction in regard to some small and unimportant points, and that the Minute carried out the object with which it had been drafted. The Lord-Advocate, however, seemed to take the contrary view.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN (Mr. CALDWELL, Lanarkshire, Mid.) said it was unusual to call upon an hon. Member for the second time in regard to discussions of this kind, especially when there were so many Members rising to speak who had not yet spoken, and unless he had thought that the hon. Member had some new points to deal with, which would not occupy more than a minute or two, he should not have called upon him. The hon. Member seemed to be going over the same ground that had already been covered.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said he was talking about a new incident which had occurred in the course of the discussion. The speech of the Lord Advocate entirely changed their attitude towards this question. While the Secretary for Scotland had said one thing the right hon. Gentleman the Lord Advocate had said exactly the opposite.

MR. SINCLAIR assured the hon. Member that there was complete agreement between himself and the Lord-Advocate. He thought that the criticisms which the hon. Gentleman had made had been made under a complete misapprehension.

*MR. SUTHERLAND (Elgin Burghs) said he had had a long connection with School Board work, and he could assure the Committee that when Boards received communications from "My Lords" of the Education Department they appreciated them at their true value. He wished to associate himself with what had been said by the two right hon. Gentlemen on the Front Bench. He congratulated them on the spirit which they had manifested in regard to education in Scotland. As the chairman of a school board he had known the late Secretary of the Scottish Education Department long and intimately through his Minutes and Circulars, and he was now glad to meet him face to face. The Minute for the training of teachers had been referred to. But Parliament could not alter it by one jot or tittle. Many of the provisions of the Minute were of sufficient importance to be embodied in a Bill, and in his judgment the sooner they got a new Education Bill for Scotland, the better. The Secretary for Scotland had said that he wished to have in every parish in Scotland a higher-grade school. That would be a very serious undertaking, because a higher-grade school cost a great deal for upkeep.

MR. SINCLAIR explained that he did not say he wanted a higher-grade school in every parish. What he did say was that he wanted higher-grade school facilities.

MR. SUTHERLAND said that if the right hon. Gentleman only referred to higher-grade school facilities then he was at one with him. He wished, moreover, to associate himself with what had been said by the Lord-Advocate.

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the Clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further Proceeding was postponed without Question put.

CORK CITY RAILWAYS AND WORKS BILL (BY ORDER).

Order for consideration, as amended, read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill, as amended, be now considered."

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.), in asking the House to decline to proceed with the Bill on the ground that the companies concerned were seeking to evade the fulfilment of Parliamentary undertakings, said that the companies referred to in the Motion undertook in 1898, and their undertakings were embodied in the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Act of 1898, to construct the very works which it was proposed by this Bill to construct. The position to-day was that these companies were really the chief supporters of the proposals of the Bill, and intended to construct the works which were proposed to be constructed under the Bill. They intended to become the owners of the railways constructed under the Bill, and they appealed to the Treasury, seeking to get from the public funds of this country a grant of public money for the purpose of constructing works which they were under a statutory obligation to construct under the Act of 1898. The companies were under a series of obligations which were all embodied in the Act, but of which he would mention only two. They were under ten obligations, but the two he wished to refer to were, first—

> "The construction, with the sanction of Parliament, of a line from Fermoy to Dunkettle with running powers over the Great Southern and Western Railway Company's line to the Great Southern and Western Railways terminal station at Cork."

and—

> "The construction, with the sanction of Parliament and the co-operation of the local authorities in Cork, and the railway companies west of Cork, of a line to connect the systems of the companies west of Cork with the systems of the Fishguard Company, and the Great Southern and Western Railway Company."

That proposal was exactly the same as the proposal of the Bill. The connecting links in Cork City the obligations of which these companies undertook under the Act of 1898 were the connecting links to be made by this Bill. Section 68 of the Act of 1898 read as follows—

> "The company" (the Fishguard Company) "will use their best endeavours to obtain the assent and co-operation of the Cork Commissioners, and the Corporation of Cork, and of the Cork, Bandon and South Coast, and Cork and Macroom Railway Companies, and within a reasonable time of obtaining such assent and co-operation, will apply to Parliament for and use their best endeavours to obtain, and if such powers are contained will construct a direct communication across the River Lee so as to connect the systems of the company and of the Great Southern Company with those of the Cork, Bandon and South Coast, and the Cork and Macroom Railway Companies, which communication, when constructed, shall be part of the undertaking of the company."

They were under the further obligation under the Act of 1898 of coming to Parliament in the following year for the purpose of obtaining powers to construct the Fermoy and Dunkettle line. They did come to Parliament and got powers to construct that line, and then began a series of attempts on the part of these two companies to evade those two obligations. They came to Parliament in 1901, and in order to get rid of the obligation to construct the Fermoy and Dunkettle line, suggested that Parliament should consent to their carrying out their obligation to construct the links in Cork City, and that that should be taken in substitution of their undertaking to construct the Fermoy and Dunkettle line. The Great Western Company were connected with the Bill, and both companies were parties to this Bill, as the evidence given before the Committee would show. When the Bill was submitted by the Company in 1901, the hon. Member for North Louth moved—

> "To leave out from the word 'that' to the end of the question, and add the words 'that this House is not prepared to consider any Bill relating to the Great Southern and Western Company's system until the Company had given effect to the Parliamentary undertakings for which it is responsible respecting the construction of the Cork and Fermoy line under the Acts of 1898 to 1899."

In response to the Amendment Lord Shuttleworth, then Sir U. Kay Shuttleworth, who was the Chairman of the Committee which passed the Bills of 1898 and 1899, said that—

> "as chairman of the Committee which had considered the original Bill, he trusted that the strongest view would be taken both by the Government and the House of their attempt to evade their obligations on the part of these two great railway companies which were united under the concession granted to them three years ago by a very strong Committee specially appointed by this House, and that they should not be released from the solemn obligations they had then entered into. The concession that was then granted to them was a very large and a very exceptional one. In some respects it was a great monopoly, and the Committee had taken great care in granting the concession to consider all the obligations which they were bound to lay on the company in order that the public interests might be properly secured."

Sir U. Kay Shuttleworth went on to refer to the suggestion then made by the company that if they carried out their second obligation they should be thereby entitled to claim a release from their first obligation. He said—

> "But what did they offer? They offered as an alternative to carry out a second obligation, one of many, but a second obligation which they equally solemnly undertook, namely, with the co-operation of the City of Cork to connect this new system with the particular district for the benefit of the fishing and agricultural industries. He hoped the House of Commons and the Government would not for a moment entertain the idea that because the company

offered to carry out one of their obligations, they therefore should be let off carrying out the other. The hon. Gentleman read a paragraph of the Report containing the word 'co-operation,' and it was perfectly true that that word as used there could not have been intended to mean financial co-operation. If they had had financial assistance in view, the Committee would have taken care to have put that in the Report. What was meant was that the company should be given power to make this line, and that the commissioners should co-operate with them in the construction of a bridge across the River Lee which would be greatly to the advantage of the South West of Ireland, namely, of all parts of the country beyond Cork."

In the course of that discussion the Leader of the Opposition, then First Lord of the Treasury, deprecated any attempt to introduce these subjects into an omnibus Bill. He said—

> "One word before he sat down with regard to the Bill before the House. It had no connection with the Cork and Fermoy line, or with the construction of the bridge over the river Lee, but it was a Bill, the object of which was to improve the conduct of traffic between the South of Ireland and England. It was an omnibus Bill, and in his judgment the House would act very foolishly if it attempted to penalise a railway company by refusing to pass an omnibus Bill, simply because the company had incurred and perhaps justly incurred suspicion in relation to certain matters. Let the House refuse in the future to remit to another Committee what one Committee had already decided; let the House refuse to allow a company to go back on a Parliamentary bargain, but it would be unwise in the interests of the travelling public, leaving out of consideration the shareholders, to penalise this or any other company, because they had incurred the displeasure of the House in connection with an entirely different matter. Therefore, he would suggest that this Bill, having been duly before a Committee, ought to be read a third time; but hereafter if either the House or the Treasury was asked to release the companies from a bargain into which they had solemnly entered for value received, then an entirely different set of considerations came in and probably a different course ought to be taken."

A great number of Members spoke upon the subject. The hon. Member for County Cork pointed out that if they did this the construction of the links in Cork City would be very desirable, that the railway would assist the congested districts, develop the fishing industry and assist the transit of agricultural produce. And he went on to say—

> "As to the co-operation of the Cork local bodies, if they acted towards this scheme in a selfish and niggardly spirit, he trusted that that would be remembered by the House when the Cork authorities came for further powers."

What had happened? The Cork Corporation was here for the first time supporting this Bill. Last year a similar Bill was before the House, and was rejected by the Committee for doing this, and they had the Cork Corporation, which now for the first time supported the Bill, then lodging a petition against it. They put forward the very ground which he was raising now. Last year as in this year a Bill was put forward and they said—

> "Your petitioners are advised and believe that the scheme sought to be authorised by the present Bill is put forward by or in the interests of the Great Western Railway Company the Fishguard Company, and the Southern Company, who as before stated are by Section 60 authorised with the other companies in the said section mentioned to subscribe to the undertaking and so aid the construction of the proposed railways. Your petitioners submit that this is apparently an attempt on the part of the Fishguard Company supported by the Western and Southern Company to evade their Parliamentary obligations."

That was the same case as he was making on the present occasion. It might have been contended with some force that up to this year the Fishguard Company had never obtained the consent of the Cork local authorities which it was suggested they should get in the Act of 1898. This year for the first time all the local authorities of Cork were consenting to the Bill, and that being so for the first time the obligation on the Fishguard Company to construct these links came into operation. He made the same case as the Cork Corporation did last year, which was that it was an attempt on the part of the companies to evade their Parliamentary obligations. Was the House to be asked to help them to evade their obligations? There was no suggestion till this year that they should be helped to fulfil an obligation which they undertook to fulfil without public money. In 1901 they offered to construct the Cork and Fermoy line and the connecting links with the city without any grant, and now because they had been in default till they had allowed their powers to construct to lapse they asked to be helped. The matter had never properly come before the Committee, for they had no means of knowing the history of the transactions. There was no evidence given before them on that point, and they were not in any way responsible for the position created by the fact that these companies now appeared as the chief promoters and sponsors of the Bill. The Committee did not know, so far as evidence was before them, that these companies had a Parliamentary obligation to carry out this very work as soon as they got the consent of the corporations concerned. If they had had that evidence before them he was quite sure that they would not have listened to a Bill which proposed to enable them to evade Parliamentary obligations which they undertook in 1898. In consequences of the Acts passed in 1898–9 the companies got an Act in 1900 for the amalgamation of the Great Southern system with two other important railways in the South of Ireland, and the net position was that, having failed to fulfil two important Parliamentary obligations, they now held that they were entitled to benefit by that evasion and to get for the purpose of enabling them to evade another Parliamentary obligation, £25,000 out of the money which had come back into the Treasury. There had never been a more flagrant violation of Parliamentary obligations. It was the most monstrous thing that Parliament could do to give them £25,000 as a reward for evading direct Parliamentary obligations and to help them to evade another obligation. He did not know whether the Railway Trust in Ireland was going to obtain the same power and influence as other trusts in America, but he thought that if ever there was an instance of the introduction of putrefaction into the body politic this was one. He moved.

Mr. POWER (Waterford,E.), in seconding, said that no one who attended the deliberations of the Committee which considered this Bill could deny that they gave the greatest care to the intricate evidence, or that their proceedings were prolonged and anxious. The Committee were at a serious disadvantage, however, in not having an opportunity of considering the Cork and Waterford Bill. Had they taken evidence with regard to the merits of that Bill he believed that they would have hesitated long before they even indirectly sanctioned a measure which was in the interests of two great companies which had evaded their statutory obligations in the most flagrant way. On behalf of the ratepayers in the county of Waterford, they regretted very sincerely that that Bill was withdrawn, for although they could not support all the details of the Cork and Waterford Railway Bill, at all events it did provide an alternative route, and had it come before the Committee they would have been able on behalf of the ratepayers of Waterford to have placed before the Committee facts which must have influenced their views in coming to a decision. The capital of this railway company was £280,000 and up to June, 1898, the ratepayers had paid £292,062, or, in other words, they had paid up to that time £12,062 over and above the capital of the company. For a year after that period the ratepayers were liable to £14,000, and they were liable to £7,000 a year at the present time minus some reduction under the Local Government Act. The capital of the company was not sufficient to construct the line, and so they applied to the Board of Works for a loan of £93,000. He might mention that in some districts the guarantee amounted to 1s. 4d. in the £ per annum. In 1898 the Great Western Railway Company brought forward a Bill to take up this county line. They offered to wipe out the entire guarantee if the Treasury would provide £93,000. The hybrid committee said they would not consent to this, but they agreed to half of the rate being wiped out, which left it at £7,000. It was agreed that for the other £7,000 a competitive route should be established which would compete with the Holyhead route and connect Waterford and Cork, and indirectly Cork and Dublin. From the moment they got these powers they commenced intriguing to get out of their obligations, and by the lapse of time they had managed to get out of them. He only wished that the Great Western Railway Company and their allies would come forward themselves and not put forward private promoters. The Great Western Railway Company had broken their pledges to Parliament in the most scandalous way, and they would be the parties who would gain most by this measure. The late Duke of Devonshire, in a most generous way, constructed a line from Fermoy to Lismore at his own expense and this, together with the line which the ratepayers of Waterford constructed themselves, was the only competitive route. This company asked to be relieved from their obligations to construct the Cork and Fermoy line, and in place thereof to be allowed to substitute a scheme for connecting the lines in Cork, but that application was refused. If that application was refused, was it not equally their duty to refuse a similar application now. He thought it would be acknowledged that those who had paid for so many years these enormous sums had a claim for consideration with regard to this £93,000. It might be said that a portion of this £93,000 had been allotted to Waterford for a bridge, but the citizens of Waterford in twenty years had paid the sum of £20,000 towards the guarantee. He did not know whether he had made a good case or not, but he knew he had a good and an unanswerable case. If anyone had a claim to this money it was the poor ratepayers who had been paying through the nose in the county of Waterford. By the terms of the Bill they would be handing over a considerable portion of this money to enable the railway company to evade their statutory obligations. He wished to read a passage with reference to the proposal that the company should be allowed to evade its obligations of constructing this line between Cork and Fermoy. On this subject the present Leader of the Opposition had said—

> "As to the Question on the Paper, there is no doubt that the company are obliged to construct the line from Cork to Fermoy, and the Treasury neither have the power, nor would they exercise it if they did possess it, of sanctioning any escape from their Parliamentary obligations."

His hon. friend had read some extracts used by the right hon. Gentleman on a subsequent occasion, and he had also referred to the language used by the Gentleman who was then the Chairman of the Hybrid Committee. The then First Lord of the Treasury on July 21st, 1901, said—

> "His opinion was that once a railway came before a Committee in that House and got a Bill for value received it ought to carry out its obligations. It might be that the obligations ought not in the interests of Ireland to have been entered into. It might be that the money to be spent on this line had much better be spent in carrying out other railway works in the south or west of Ireland—on that point he did not offer an opinion, although he was inclined to the opinion that the money might be better spent. But that did not alter the fact that a bargain had been made before two Committees and that it was in consequence of that bargain that the railway company obtained from the House the privileges which it now enjoyed. They must distinguish that from the question of expediency, and he thought the railway company were bound to carry out the bargain into which they had entered."

If this Bill were passed in its present form they would be rewarding the company for having broken their pledges to Parliament. He begged to second the Motion of his hon. friend.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'this House, in view of the fact that by The Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Act, 1898, the Great Western Company and the Great Southern and Western Company undertook the obligation to construct similar works to those proposed by this Bill, declines to proceed with the Bill, on the ground that these companies are seeking by it to evade compliance with their said undertaking to Parliament and are also in default as regards the further obligation to construct a line from Fermoy to Dunkettle which they accepted under the said Act of 1898."—(*Mr. O'Shee*)—instead thereof—

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.) said that as a Member of the Committee that considered this Bill he desired to say a few words upon it. He had very great sympathy with some of the remarks which had fallen from his hon. friends. He had thought all along that failure to fulfil the obligations placed upon them by Committees of this House, and of the House of Lords, on the part of the great railway companies, was a very serious matter indeed. His hon. friend had said that if they were to pass this Bill in its present form they should be enabling these companies to evade their obligations. He wished to point out that with respect to the £25,000 which was to be given as a Treasury grant, there was nothing about it in the Bill. The Committee had not to consider that condition at all. What they had to consider was this. It had long been felt and generally recognised that some linking up of the railways running into Cork was in the interest of the whole of the south of Ireland. Parliament itself, at the very time that it imposed the obligation which had been spoken of, viz., the construction of the Fermoy line, laid upon the railway companies a second obligation also, namely, that, as soon as they could secure the support of the local bodies, they should bridge the Lee. This Parliament had already declared that, subject to a satisfactory scheme being produced, this work should be carried out. The question the Committee had to consider was whether the scheme placed before them was a proper scheme. Proposals of one kind or another had been brought up year after year for a number of years, but for the first time the scheme had obtained what was contemplated by Parliament—the concurrence, sanction, and approval of all the local bodies. In view of that fact the Committee had felt that they could not refuse to pass the Bill. As to the outstanding question as to the allocation of the £93,000, he had never expressed, and he did not desire to express, any opinion, because the matter, important as it was, was one for the Treasury. He had no doubt that his hon. friend the Secretary of the Treasury would not have given his consent to any such grant of public money without a very good case being made out, but as he was quite capable of defending himself, he did not wish to say anything more on that aspect of the question. He had confined himself to what the Committee conceived to be the proper course to take in the interest of the whole of the south of Ireland. The financial question as between the different companies and the Treasury was not within their purview at all.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Cork) said that after the statement to which the House had listened from the hon. Member for West Donegal, who was an active Member of the Committee, he hoped the hon. Gentlemen who had brought forward the Motion would not consider it their duty to continue their opposition to the Bill. When the three Bills—all of which proposed to bridge the river Lee—came before the House for Second Reading he thought it was agreed on all sides that they should go on the same footing before the Committee upstairs, and that the Bill which stood the test of the Committee's investigation, should be accepted. That investigation had taken place, and the promoters of the measures had been heard by the Committee. It was no fault of the supporters of this Bill that a portion of the scheme was withdrawn. It was no fault of theirs that the full history of the transaction was not placed before the Committee. What he repeated was that it was perfectly certain that the true history of the scheme for bridging the river Lee was before the Committee. As his hon. friend had mentioned, that was an essential portion of the scheme, and with a full knowledge of the facts before them the Committee came to their decision, and he would really put it to hon. Members whether they seriously proposed to reject the decision of the Committee after a casual conversation in this House, and by the votes of Gentlemen who could not be expected to have any knowledge of the merits of this transaction. The hon. Member for West Waterford had said that the Bill was presented to the House by private promoters. He had himself acknowledged that this Bill had the united consent and concurrence of every great representative body in the south of Ireland and in the City of Cork. These bodies represented fully 500,000 people. It was supported by the Corporation of Cork, as the hon. Member said, for the first time. Why? Because it was the first scheme which would satisfy them. It was in the interests of the harbour of Cork, and it was supported by the Harbour Commissioners, who had made a contribution of £10,000 towards the expense of the project. It was supported in addition by the County Council of Cork. All the large bodies were absolutely agreed with the representatives of the city that this matter was of vast importance to the interests of the south of Ireland. The project this year was wholly different from previous proposals. This year a local contribution of £25,000 was to be subscribed for the project which would cost just half the money or less. How was it possible, if they were to have any respect for Irish public opinion and the decisions of the representatives of the Irish people, for hon. Members who were opposing this Bill to reconcile their action with that position and to ask this House, consisting of people who could not be acquainted with the merits of the transaction, to come in and by their votes over-ride the unanimous decision of the three great local representative bodies, and thereby put the promoters to all the heavy expense which the loss of this Bill would involve? He hoped that on reconsideration hon. Members would not think it their duty to carry their opposition to the Bill any further. He hoped they would not consider it disrespectful if he did not think it worth while to go over again the old story stated by the hon. Member. The hon. Member for West Donegal had pointed out that the opposition of the hon. Member for West Waterford, based on the £25,000 grant, was from beginning to end irrelevant and out of order.

MR. O'SHEE said his case against the Bill was not based on the contribution. He objected to it because of the treatment given to the Great Western Railway Company of England and the Great Southern and Western Railway Company.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN pointed out that this Bill did not contain a word from begining to end with reference to the grant of £25,000. That was a matter dependent wholly on the Treasury themselves in their dealings with the promoters of the Bill. The Secretary of the Treasury had merely, so far as he understood, confirmed the agreement that was come to last year by the late Government with the universal assent of all parties, and on the strength of which £33,000 had been already allocated to the perfectly proper purpose of the bridge. If that arrangement was to be challenged, let it be done at the right time on the Estimates, when the salary of the Secretary of the Treasury was under consideration. He was quite sure that the hon. Gentleman was perfectly able to give his own view of the matter, but let it not be done on a chance occasion of this kind. By rejecting this Bill they would not be punishing the Great Western Railway Company of England, but they would be punishing 500,000 people in the south of Ireland.

MR. O'SHEE dissented.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN said he fancied that the hon. Member by his wild interruptions was supporting his arguments considerably better than he was in a position to do himself. If the hon. Member impugned the decision of the Secretary of the Treasury, let him raise the question on the hon. Gentleman's salary, and let it be discussed then. Let the House not attempt to make itself the instrument of what would be a most wanton and cruel wrong to the community in the south of Ireland. It was not too late to appeal to hon. Members. It was perfectly fair that within certain limits they should state their views. If next year or the year after the promoters of the other proposals produced a scheme of their own giving the promise of an alternative route to England, the people of Cork would be most happy to back them up, because they were sufferers from the want of an alternative route. Under these circumstances he hoped that not many Irish Members would be found to push their opposition to the Bill. He respectfully appealed to British Members of the House to respect the decisiont he Committee had come to and not to allow themselves to fly in the face of the decision of all local authorities.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.) said he did not complain of a single utterance of the hon. Member for West Waterford, nor did he fail to appreciate that he was labouring under a sense of injustice. He felt that the undertaking by the railway company should have been carried out. Its obligations had not been implemented and he felt very strongly upon the subject.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN: What I said was that Cork did not press the railway company to carry out its obligations.

MR. McKENNA said that when the railway company in 1898 entered into certain obligations it was a condition that the Treasury should give to the railway company £93,000, and upon the railway company failing to carry out its obligations the Treasury should receive the money back. The hon. Member for East Cork took a somewhat different line. He objected to the advance of that money not merely because the railway companies were under an obligation to build that or some other similar railway, but because he considered the £93,000 was allocated to the county of Waterford. It had not been alleged that the present scheme was not a good one; no one disputed that it was in the interests of the whole of Ireland. He was sure any Member would agree that it was most desirable that the railway should be built. Whilst he quite understood the feelings which prompted the remarks of the hon. Member for West Waterford, he hoped he would not press the question to a division. In defending the action of the Treasury in proposing to give the £25,000 he was afraid he would have to take up a ground which to hon. Members for England, Scotland, and Wales would hardly seem to be justified. In 1872 and 1873 the Acts for the building of the Waterford, Dungarven and Lismore Railway were granted to the company, which had a capital of £180,000. It was a Waterford county scheme. The Waterford county proposed to find the capital and they made a bad bargain. In 1878 the railway was built, but it did not pay. The Waterford county wished to exercise its borrowing powers and asked the Treasury to advance £93,000 upon mortgage. This was done, but not one shilling of principal or interest did the Treasury get back for 20 years. In 1898, however, a new Act was granted to the Fishguard and Rosslare Railway Company, and under that Act the company agreed to repay to the Treasury the £93,000 and to take over the Waterford, Dungarven and Lismore Railway. This was done, and on strictly accurate and justifiable lines the money should have come back into the British Treasury for use in any part of the country. The Treasury, however, did not do that; they looked upon the repayment of the money in the light of a windfall, and decided to allocate it for the development of communication in the south of Ireland. This was the view the Treasury took upon the matter, and the view they intended to go upon. Waterford, however, claimed that the money should be wholly used for the benefit of their own county. It had been represented to the Treasury that two urgently desirable objects for the spending of that money were a bridge in the city of Waterford and the linking up of the means of communication with the city of Cork. Accordingly, the sum of £33,000 was earmarked for the former purpose, and £63,000 for the latter. These schemes were now under consideration, and it would not be reasonable for the Treasury to go back upon its undertaking. He would ask the hon. Member for West Waterford, therefore, to look at the question in the broad light of the interests of the south of Ireland. It was their only chance of carrying out the two schemes for Waterford and Cork. He asked the House to allow the Bill to go through without further opposition.

*MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.) protested against the language of his hon. friend the Member for Cork who said that the opponents of the Bill desired to do wanton injustice to 500,000 people. They had, no intention of inflicting injustice upon anybody, still less upon their own countrymen. They were only doing what they conceived to be their duty. He was strongly in favour of the linking up of railways on the south and north sides of the river Dee, and had done his best to promote that object. The Financial Secretary of the Treasury had omitted to state that there was a first charge on the debt of the railway on the part of the county and city of Waterford to the extent of £294,000. He also omitted to allude to the £93,000 which his predecessor, the late Mr. Hanbury, had earmarked for certain purposes in the event of two conditions being fulfilled. One was the object which was sought to be carried out by this Bill, viz., that these lines should be linked up. They had no objection to that linking up, but the second condition was that a line should be made between Cork and Fermoy, and that condition was being violated. Both conditions should, however, be carried out. The linking up would connect the most picturesque parts of Ireland, and also put those parts in connection with London, but that linking up was not all that was required. His hon. friend had said that this line was being made with the consent and at the request of the local bodies. But the corporation of Cork did not propose to spend one penny upon it, and neither did the Cork County Council. A permissive clause had been inserted enabling the Harbour Board to subscribe £10,000, but according to a Resolution which that Board had unanimously agreed to they had said that they would not subscribe a penny towards the Cork City Railway and Works Bill. It was said that £25,000 was going to be subscribed locally, and this appeared to consist of the £10,000 he had already alluded to, and £15,000 it was said would be provided by the Cork and Bandon Railway. The hon. and learned Member having quoted from the *Cork Examiner* of August 10th, 1905, and February 15th, 1906, to show that it was impossible for the Cork and Bandon Railway to raise the £15,000 which they were relied upon to raise said the chairman of the Committee, who knew a great deal about these railway matters in the south of Ireland, served upon the committee which rejected the original scheme which put the railway system of the south of Ireland into the dead hand of these united companies. It was a case of mortmain. These companies could do as they pleased, and all the evils pointed out by those who were opposed to the amalgamation had since been realised by the unfortunate south of Ireland. He opposed this scheme because it was rotten in itself, and while he opposed it he knew very well the duty would devolve upon him for suggesting some alternative, and he sincerely hoped he should be able to suggest an alternative which would be agreeable to the House. With regard to the Bill which would connect Cork and Waterford, and Cork and Dublin, the Committee held that the preamble was not proved. That was the Bill which would have connected Cork and Waterford, and would have given the people of Cork and Waterford a straight route to London and an alternative route to Dublin, and the people of America a direct route to London. Having dealt with the question of local bodies and the question of finance he thought that there were two questions of a vital character so far as this Bill was concerned, having regard to the nature of the support given by the local authorities. That was not such a whole-hearted support, unbacked as it was by any contribution on their part. It was not such a support as could be relied upon. He had dealt with the finances which must, he thought, also be regarded as unsatisfactory by the Secretary to the Treasury himself, because the hon. Gentleman did not know the things which he had revealed to the House. The Chairman of the Committee did not know the things he had revealed to the House. He had not read the Resolution and the Minutes of the Harbour Board, and therefore he was justified in asking this House to go back on the decision of the Committee. There was no one in that House who respected the decisions of Committees more than he did. They were decisions arrived at after discussion, and the best conclusions were come to that could be obtained. But there were cases when a Committee did not have before them all the information necessary to arrive at a correct conclusion, and he suggested that this was one of those cases. He did not wish to impeach the decisions of the Committee. He had sat on Committees and he respected them as highly as any man in this House. As he began so he would conclude, by saying that they were not inimical to the carrying out of some such scheme as this. He had endeavoured to show that there were two conditions attached to the giving of this money, namely, a linking up of these lines and the making of a direct route to Cork connecting it with the Fishguard and Rosslare line. As between Fermoy and Cork itself, the people now had to go right round two sides of a triangle. The object of the Committee was to make a line on the third side of the triangle and by that connect the two points together. That would bring them into direct communication with a line between Cork and Rosslare. He asked the House to reject this project. He asked them to think of it not from a local but from a universal point of view. He was aware that there were people considering at the present moment rapid transit between North America and the South of Ireland. There were schemes in contemplation which would bring the two nearest points of the Eastern and Western hemispheres together. There were means contemplated by a service of rapid vessels between the nearest points of Canada and Ireland to bring them closer together. He believed it would be possible to make the voyage across the Atlantic by means of large turbine boats in three or four days. There was in the south of Ireland a safe and good harbour capable of holding the defensive as well as the offensive fleets of the manœuvres. Even at low water there was a depth of fifty feet. It was the nearest point to America, and a passenger leaving America could travel as the crow flies straight to London if the proposed connection at Cork with the Rosslare and Fishguard route were made. But it was also necessary that a connection should be made between Cork and Waterford in the manner he had described; therefore he asked his friends to drop this Bill and make way for the promotion of a scheme that would connect the counties of Cork and Waterford. He was empowered to say that if the promoters of this Bill were not willing to introduce next year a measure comprehending the two conditions he had alluded to, he knew those who had the capacity, the ability, and the willingness to put up a sufficient amount of capital, with the aid and assistance of the Treasury, who would be asked to give them, not the £25,000, but the whole £60,000, to carry out the entire scheme of linking up the railways that it was now sought to link up, and to make the connection he had suggested. It was no empty proposal on his part. He believed that those who promoted the Bill that was thrown out by the Committee this year were capable of carrying out such a scheme. He had, therefore, authority for saying that if the Treasury would give them the whole £60,000, they would link up the railways so as to make a connection between Cork and Waterford that would satisfy the Waterford people and meet the requirements of the whole case. It would develop the tourist traffic of the south of Ireland, and give an alternative route to Dublin for which the people of the south of Ireland had been long anxious, and of which these petty schemes prevented the accomplishment.

MR. ASHTON (Bedfordshire, Luton), as Chairman of the Committee which dealt with the Bill, desired to say a few words. A great deal of the opposition was on the ground of the Treasury making a grant of £25,000 instead of applying it in other ways. He thought it had been sufficiently shown that the money would be very wisely given by the

Treasury to this purpose. It was strongly put before the Committee that unless that money was furnished, at least so far as the Great Western Bill was concerned, this railway would certainly not be made at the present time. The evidence before the Committee went to show that for the benefit of the south and west of Ireland the railway should be made immediately, and that weighed very largely with the Committee in the conclusions to which they came. They came to the conclusion to pass this Bill absolutely unanimously and he hoped the House would take note of that fact. He was bound to say one or two words as to the speech that had just been made by the hon. Member for North Kildare. It dealt mainly with the financial aspect of the Bill. He had some little knowledge of finance and he had also some little knowledge of the finance of Bills that had come before this House, and in his experience he did not think he had ever seen a Bill passed that shewed better finance than the measure under discussion. The hon. Member had sought to throw doubt upon those who had made promises of money for carrying out their bargain. There were such things upstairs as Parliamentary bargains and they knew that railways were very much averse to going outside those Parliamentary bargains, and he thought at the present moment, knowing the feeling of hon. Members below the gangway opposite, the Great Western Railway, at any rate, would be very careful in carrying out its Parliamentary bargain. They had so far as they could have the assurance that the money would be found, and if the money were found by the two railways and by the Treasury the thing would be seen through. He had never met with sounder finance. But supposing these two railways did not carry out their bargain as the hon. Member suggested, what was the worst that could happen? That the Treasury would not find the £25,000 and the scheme would come to an end; but from the evidence given to the Committee he felt morally certain that that scheme would be carried out. In the interests of all concerned, all he could say to the House was that they gave a very long and very careful consideration to all the evidence for and against this Bill, and the Cork Link Bill, and they were unanimous in their conclusion. They believed that the scheme was a good one and could be carried out and that its finance was sound. Therefore he asked the House to support the Committee.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 196 Noes, 29. (Division List No. 122.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury,E.)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Benn, JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Billson, Alfred
Black, Alexander Wm. (Banff)
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn.SydneyCharles
Cairns, Thomas
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.VictorC.W
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clarke, C. Goddard

Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John, William
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. (Howell Bristol, S.
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Higham, John Sharp
Hills, J. W.
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitely, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J T. (Huddersf'd
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Essex.

NOES.

Corbett, C H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Delany, William
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Ginnell, L.
Halpin, J.
Hazleton, Richard
Hogan, Michael
Hudson, Walter
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lundon, W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
Meagher, Michael
Mooney, J. J.
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Mara, James
Parker, James (Halifax)
Summerbell, T.
Wardle, George J.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. O'Shee and Mr. Power

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, considered; to be read the third time.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,122,128, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland, including a Grant in Aid."

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,122,028, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Smeaton.*)

*MR. SUTHERLAND referred to the facilities which were now enjoyed in Scotland for obtaining University education. He desired to acknowledge the indebtedness of the Scottish people to Mr. Andrew Carnegie for the munificent gift which had enabled the youth of Scotland to receive a university education free. As to the Minute which had been placed on the Table he asked whether the Secretary for Scotland could state how many of the school boards and other educational authorities were in favour of it as it stood. Rural boards were unable to bring the same pressure to bear on the Department as the large boards could do. The Department often provided machinery without taking into account the circumstances of the localities. Pupils attending public schools in the rural districts had in many cases simply to mark time between the ages of twelve and fourteen. Could anyone tell him why there was such a hurry to carry this Minute into effect? The Secretary for Scotland had stated that neither he nor the very able and experienced Secretary of the Department approved of it in its present form. The Committee ought to be given time to go fully into the question. education authorities and others in Scotland should be afforded more time to study and consult regarding the Minute. Hon. Members had received copies of it only yesterday and to-day. Dealing with the question of grants to Scottish county councils for the purposes of technical education he thought that in many cases the technical education given was not of a kind to warrant the expenditure of so much money. The time was ripe for the reconsideration of the education question in Scotland. He urged that the Government should give adequate and continuous time for the discussion of Scottish estimates, and he thought that Members from Scotland should insist on getting that time.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said that after careful consideration he had come to the conclusion that the Minute was one which ought to be supported. He did not think that under it the children of the wage-earning classes would be excluded from the teaching profession. He maintained that the children of the wage-earning classes should get as good an education as possible, and that this end could only be attained by keeping up the standard of the teaching profession. Democratic control of education was also needed, and a representative educational council and local boards should be established of a calibre to hold their own against the Scottish Education Department. As to the cost of education, the growth of local burdens was very great, and it was essential that Scotland should get the whole of the money to which she was entitled in regard to the equivalent grant for the money voted to the University Colleges, and the £1,000,000 to be devoted to English education under the Education Bill. The school boards at present had to work under great difficulties caused by lack of co-ordination and lack of funds, and they were further hampered by lack of recruits for the teaching profession. They had a great leeway to make up in regard to practical training and technical education. Another year should not be allowed to pass without the whole of this question of education, perhaps the greatest of all Scottish questions, being adequately dealt with.

MR. SINCLAIR rose to reply when—

MR. MORTON (Sutherland) on a point of order, asked whether it was usual for the Member of the Government in charge of the Estimates to intervene when he had himself taken up the best part of the evening.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said that it was not only usual but proper that the Minister in charge of the Estimates should answer the various questions put to him in discussion, before the discussion closed.

MR. SINCLAIR said the last thing he desired to do was to stand between his hon. friend and the Committee.

MR. MORTON: But that is what you are doing.

MR. SINCLAIR thought it was only courteous to the Committee that he should endeavour to reply, in the few minutes that were left, to some of the criticisms that had been passed on the Estimates. He regretted that the Minute which had been referred to, and which had been welcomed by experienced Members in its altered form, was not in the hands of Members, but he was able to state that in that Minute provision was made for the proper teaching of Gaelic. On the question of teachers nothing could be done without legislation, while in regard to finance he should welcome most heartily any support which the Scottish Members on either side would give him in demanding both time and money from the Government. He concluded by expressing the hope that the Committee would now allow the Vote to be taken.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said if the right hon. Gentleman would give the Committee an assurance that further time would be given for the discussion of Scottish Estimates, he was prepared to offer no opposition to this Vote, otherwise he was prepared to go on until he was interrupted.

MR. SINCLAIR said he would do his utmost to secure further time for Scottish Estimates, but he could give no positive undertaking.

And, it being Eleven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS BILL [LORDS].

Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 15*th June*, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

The Lord Powerscourt (*V. Powerscourt*) sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

The Lord Gerard sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).

Also the Certificates that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bills: Sea Fisheries Provisional Order; Land Drainage Provisional Order; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2); Local Government Provisional; Order (No. 3); Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6); Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law).

And also the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Derby Gas; Pontefract Corporation; Rochester, Chatham, and Strood Gas; Cheltenham Gas; Edinburgh Corporation; Metropolitan Railway; South Suburban Gas.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [H.L.]; South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [H.L.]. Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Bute (English and Welsh) Estates Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a, and committed.

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill. Read 2^a, and committed for Tuesday next.

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill. Read 2^a, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Bill; London United Tramways Bill, Manchester Corporation Bill. Read 2^a, and committed.

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.]; Truro Gas Bill [H.L.]; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [H.L.]; Portsmouth Water Bill [H.L.]; Kent Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Southampton Gas Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

North East London Railway Bill. Brought from the Commons, read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day read for the House being put into Committee.

Moved, "That the House resolve itself into Committee on this Bill."—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, on the Motion to go into Committee I wish, very briefly, to call your Lordships' attention to the procedure in connection with this Bill, and in referring to this Bill I am speaking in regard to Provisional Order Bills generally. Your Lordships know that a very large part of legislation is now done by Provisional Order. These Provisional Orders are prepared in the Departments concerned, and come up to your Lordships in the shape of Bills. The Bills are not circulated, and it sometimes happens that Amendments are proposed. These Amendments are not seen by the noble Lord the Chairman of Committees. The Bills are not sent to him, because they are in the nature of public Bills, and the result is that legislation may be passed of whose effect the House is wholly ignorant.

I called your Lordships' attention to a case the other day in which a noble Lord proposed, on the Third Reading of a Provisional Order Bill, to introduce what on examination proved to be a most important Amendment, and your Lordships eventually adopted a model clause which we should never have known existed if it had not been that your Lordships postponed the consideration of the Bill in order to give time to see the effect of the suggested Amendment. Yesterday, again, a Provisional Order Bill was put forward by the representative of the Scottish Office to which noble Lords moved Amendments. The Government declined to stand to their own Bill. We knew nothing of the Amendments before we came down to the House, and although your Lordships ultimately decided to adhere to the Provisional Order in its original form we nevertheless ran a very great risk of putting an important Amendment into a Bill without having had any previous notice of it.

Your Lordships will observe that there are three or four of these Bills on the Order Paper every day. Here is one now before the House. I know nothing whatever about it. It is called the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. This Bill, like other Bills of the same kind, has not been circulated. Amendments are to be proposed. In the first place, I do not know whose Amendments they are. They stand in the name of the noble Earl, Lord Granard, but I understood, with regard to a previous Provisional Order dealing with education, that the Department does not consider itself responsible for these Amendments. Well, my Lords, who is responsible? Whose Amendments are they? On the last occasion I was informed that, though the Bills were not circulated, at all events the Amendments were. Here is a case in which neither the Bill nor the Amendment has been circulated. I asked my noble friend the Chairman of Committees if he had received the Amendments, and he appears to have been singularly fortunate. I do not know whether it was in virtue of his position as Lord Chairman, or whether it is that he is a little more carefully looked after than other peers, but he seems to have been fortunate enough to have obtained a copy of these Amendments this morning.

I submit to your Lordships that the whole procedure at the present time with regard to Provisional Orders is most unsatisfactory. It is impossible to say what changes may be introduced into a Provisional Order after it has left the Department, unless, indeed, the Department assumes a part which it has not hitherto shown any desire to do, and makes itself responsible for the Amendments, rejecting them if they ought not to be put into the Bill. I merely make this protest at this stage, but if the noble Lord the Chairman of Committees agrees with me, I shall at some future date not very far distant ascertain really what is the exact procedure in regard to these Provisional Orders, and call your Lordships' attention to the subject. In the meantime I do not wish to object to the proposal to go into Committee on this Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of ONSLOW): My Lords, I entirely sympathise with the remarks which have fallen from the noble Earl. I do not think that the manner in which Provisional Orders come before your Lordships at the present time is at all satisfactory, and I am consulting with the officials of the House with a view of devising some means, possibly by a change in the Standing Orders, which will give your Lordships a better opportunity of becoming acquainted with the contents of Provisional Order Bills and of considering Amendments to be made to them. The simplest plan, of course, would be that all Provisional Order Bills should be circulated, but I am not sure that every noble Lord would be pleased to receive such a quantity of Papers. In any case it would be a considerable public charge, and I am doubtful whether the expenditure would be justifiable in view of the amount of interest generally taken in these Provisional Orders. But there can be no doubt, I think, that an opportunity ought to be given to your Lordships when Amendments are placed on the Paper for considering the Amendments in conjunction with the printed Bill in order to see the effect of them. I am sorry that the noble Earl has not received a copy of the Amendments to be moved to this Bill. I am told that they were circulated.

THE EARL of CAMPERDOWN: I have asked several noble Lords near me, and not one of them has received a copy of the Amendments.

The EARL of ONSLOW: The officials of the House believed that they had been circulated. At any rate, it is not the case that they have been taking special care of the Chairman of Committees. I am told by my noble friend Lord Waldegrave that he received a copy of the Amendments with his Papers this morning. I can assure your Lordships that the matter is engaging the attention, not only of myself but of the officials, and I hope that when the noble Earl raises the question again we shall be in a position to assure him that the arrangements in the future will be such that ample opportunity will be given to Peers of fully considering these proposals.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, perhaps I may be allowed to say one word of explanation in view of an observation which was made by my noble friend opposite with regard to the responsibility of Departments for these Provisional Order Bills and for dealing with Amendments which may be proposed to them. I am afraid I did not make myself quite clear in speaking a week or two ago on the subject of a Provisional Order Bill which emanated from the Education Department. My noble friend Lord Monkswell moved an Amendment to that Bill dealing with an aspect of the question which never comes before the Education Department at all, and therefore I stated to the House what in my opinion the limitations were to which we were subject in dealing with that particular matter. But it was very far from my intention to suggest that Provisional Order Bills as a rule were not under the charge of those who represent the particular Department concerned, or that the Departments did not consider themselves responsible for dealing with any Amendments that might be proposed from any part of the House.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, I think there is a great deal in what fell from the noble Earl opposite in regard to this question. But the noble Earl knows very well that the present practice is not a new one. Your Lordships must not suppose that this is something which the present Government have done. It has existed almost from time immemorial; at least, it has existed ever since I have been a Member of this House. I think the subject is one deserving of consideration, and I am quite sure the House will be very willing to listen to my noble friend when he brings it forward.

House in Committee (according to Order).

THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, I beg to move the insertion of the new clause standing in my name on the Paper.

Moved, "After Clause 2, page 2, to insert Clause 3." 3.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act, 1899, as incorporated with the Bellshill Electric Lighting Order, 1906, the Blantyre Electric Lighting Order, 1906, the Bothwell Electric Lighting Order, 1906, the Shettleston and Tollcross Electric Lighting Order, 1906, and the Uddingston Electric Lighting Order, 1906, confirmed by this Act, the County Council of Lanark as undertakers under each of those Orders may supply electricity in bulk or otherwise from any generating station or works of the undertakers within the area of supply under any of those Orders for use in the area of supply under any of those Orders or in any other area within which the undertakers are or may hereafter be authorised to supply electricity. (2) For the purpose of affording such supply as in the last preceding sub-section mentioned the undertakers shall have and may exercise beyond the area of supply under any such Order all and the same powers, and shall be subject to the same duties and obligations with respect to the breaking up of streets repairable by the local authority for the purpose of laying down or constructing electric lines or other works as the undertakers have or may exercise and are subject to under that Order within the area of supply under that Order in relation to the breaking up of streets for the purposes aforesaid and any expenses incurred by the undertakers in making a connection for the purpose of affording any such supply shall be defrayed by the undertakers as part of the expenses incurred by the undertakers under and for the purposes of the Order in force within the area to which the supply of electricity authorised by this section is given.—(*The Earl of Granard.*)

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: May I ask the noble Earl to explain the Amendment to us?

THE EARL OF GRANARD: All these Amendments are unopposed. This Amendment is an agreed one to enable the Lanark County Council to connect up some of their various areas of supply. The other Amendments are purely formal.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I am afraid that explanation does not leave me very much wiser. The noble Earl says this Amendment is unopposed. As far as I can understand from casually looking at the Amendment, the County Council of Lanark, as undertakers, are given power to supply electricity, in bulk or otherwise, anywhere within the area of supply under any of the Orders mentioned. I want to know whether an opportunity has been given to the persons interested of raising objection. What notice was given to them? Or is this simply an Amendment put forward by the County Council of Lanark which the Board of Trade have accepted?

THE EARL OF GRANARD: I understand that these Amendments were put forward by the Lanark County Council——

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Exactly so.

THE EARL OF GRANARD: And the Board of Trade have accepted them. I have nothing further to add.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Then how can the noble Earl say that the Amendments are unopposed? What opportunity has been given to the parties interested of appearing to oppose the Amendments if they wished to do so?

LORD NEWTON: I think it is only fair that the noble Earl who represents the Board of Trade should be given an opportunity of studying this Bill. I think it would be more consonant with the dignity of the House if we adjourned the Committee stage in order to give him time to master the details of a measure for which he is responsible.

THE EARL OF GRANARD: I have no objection to postponing the Committee stage till a future date if noble Lords desire it.

House resumed; and to be again in Committee on Friday next.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1.) Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1.) Bill. Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petition in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools; of parents of children attending school at Southoe; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

EDUCATION.

Petition that teachers may not be deprived of right to give religious instruction; of teachers in Deanery of Guth Caxton III., Diocese of Peterborough; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CANADA.

Correspondence relating to the complaint of certain printers who were induced to emigrate to Canada by false representations.

AFRICA No. 1. (1906.)

Correspondence respecting the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Administration of the Independent State of the Congo. (In continuation of "Africa, No. 1. 1905.")

MINT.

Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Mint, 1905.

LUNACY (SCOTLAND) ACT.

Forty-eighth Annual Report of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland.

TRADE.

Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions, 1905, compared with the four preceding years; Volume II. (Abstract and detailed tables of trade with each country and at each port); and miscellaneous tables.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SAVINGS BANK AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

(Post Office Savings Banks Fund.) Account for the year ended 31st December, 1905.

(Savings Banks Fund) (Friendly Societies Fund.) Accounts for the year ended 20th November, 1905.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S ALLOTMENTS.

Return respecting; laid before the House (pursuant to Order of the 8th of May last), and to be printed. (No. 124.)

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL [H.L.].

The following Lords were named of the Select Committee, viz., E. Beauchamp, L. Bp. Ripon, L. Aberdare, L. Heneage, L. Biddulph.

The Committee to meet on Monday next, at a quarter before Four o'clock, and to appoint their own chairman.

THE DEEPER LOADING OF MERCHANT VESSELS.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government whether any bodies representing seafarers have entered a protest against the new regulations permitting the deeper loading of British merchant vessels, on the ground that they were given no opportunity of recording their views before these regulations were adopted; and whether, on future occasions of the kind, His Majesty's Government will take into consideration the desirability of obtaining the opinions of seafarers before effecting changes which closely concern the safety of life at sea.

In putting this Question I would like to remind your Lordships that the people who are most interested in the seaworthiness of ships are not the shipowners. The shipowners' interest is only a monetary one, and if the ship is lost in nearly all cases she is fully insured, so that they suffer no loss. It is quite otherwise with those who command and man these ships. It is their lives that are at stake, and should their lives be lost through the unseaworthiness of the vessel, it means distress and destitution to their families. The official Department dealing with these matters seem to have very little regard for the lives of our seamen. They profess to have a regard, but their actions are directly contrary to their professions. I cannot see myself why the lives of seamen should be regarded as of less value than the lives of other members of the community. The men who have the greatest knowledge of, and who are most entitled to be heard on, the question of what constitutes seaworthiness in a vessel are those who man and navigate her, and I venture to say that no such serious action as altering the existing safety regulations should ever have taken place without the Department having heard what captains, officers, and seamen had to say on the matter.

*THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, by a certain section of the Merchant Shipping Act every British ship has to be marked by a load-line. From time to time, owing to the change in ships and for other reasons, we have to alter the position of this disc. Before, however, making any change in these matters we always discuss them with such bodies as Lloyd's British and Foreign Register, the British Corporation for the Survey and Registering of Shipping, and the Bureau Veritas. These are very highly technical subjects, and it is mostly naval architects and gentlemen of that kind who give their opinion. I do not think captains or members of the Guild of whose views my noble friend is an exponent would be competent to give us any advice on the subject, and therefore they are not asked.

MERCHANT SHIPPING BILL.

Lord MUSKERRY: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether they will furnish the names of the representatives of the shipping interest with whom the President of the Board of Trade was in communication preparatory to introducing the Merchant Shipping Bill; and whether the Merchant Service Guild or other organisations representing seafarers were communicated with in a similar way before the introduction of the Bill.

***The Earl of GRANARD**: My Lords, in reply to the noble Lord, I have to say that the President of the Board of Trade held some perfectly informal meetings with different members of the seafaring and shipowning community. His Majesty's Government, however, do not feel disposed to give the names of the representatives whom the Board of Trade consulted on the matter.

COLONIAL MARRIAGES BILL [H.L.].

Order of the day read for receiving Report of Amendment.

Moved, "That this Report be now received."—(*The Earl of Elgin.*)

The Earl of HALSBURY: My Lords, I should like to take this opportunity of explaining my position in regard to this Bill. I am opposed to it, and would have moved to postpone its Second Reading for six months or some equivalent Amendment had I thought that I should have obtained a majority in this house. But, as a matter of fact, the Bill had been previously discussed, and I thought it was wise that those who recognised that the general feeling of the House was in favour of it should not raise the question again. Some comment, however, was made on my action in pointing out that to my mind the Bill would not effect the object for which it was intended. I believe that the defect to which I then called attention has been to some extent remedied, but some observations were made to the effect that I was endeavouring to improve a Bill to which I was opposed. I think it is important that it should be understood that one may quite properly and fairly endeavour to improve the drafting of a Bill, although he may be opposed to its passing into law. I have myself on many occasions received assistance from the other side of the House when I have been in a similar position, and I should be very sorry indeed to think that it was inconsistent with the position of a person who was opposed to a Bill to give whatever assistance he could to make the drafting effective. I thought it would not be respectful to your Lordships to allow a Bill to go down from this House purporting to effect an object which it did not achieve, and I therefore intervened in order to point out what I considered a cardinal defect in the drafting.

Lord JAMES of HEREFORD: My Lords, my noble and learned friend has referred to certain observations that were made, and I am very much afraid those observations were made by me. I hope I may assure my noble and learned friend that if he drew any inference that I was criticising the action he had taken it was due to the faultiness of my language. I am aware that my noble and learned friend has consistently opposed this Bill, and I thought it a generous act on his part to refrain from opposing it this session in view of the general feeling of the House. I really was in my own mind honestly thanking him for his suggestion, and I did not intend to convey anything else. If I did convey any such impression as the noble and learned Earl seems to think, I very sincerely regret it. The defect to which my noble and learned friend called attention was a blot on the Bill, and words making the provision more effective have been inserted as the result of his generous suggestion.

On Question, Report of Amendment received.

Bill to be read 3ª on Tuesday next.

METROPOLITAN POLICE (COMMISSION) BILL.

[SECOND READING].

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, the circumstances which have led to the appointment of the Royal Commission are so recent that I do not propose to detain your Lordships by referring to them at any length. I should like to say, however, that it was not only on account of the more recent prosecution of Madame D'Angely, but also on account of proceedings which took place on boat-race night that His Majesty's Government have appointed this Royal Commission. This Bill simply proposes to give the Commission certain powers which they do not possess at the present time. It is modelled upon the Act which gave certain powers to the War Stores Royal Commission. That precedent has been entirely followed, with the exception of a single clause with regard to indemnity of witnesses. In another place that clause was inserted, and the Government, although they had not originally put it into the Bill, agreed to it because they did not wish to seem anxious to shield any witnesses, whether they came from the police force or any other quarter. The Bill met with no opposition in the sense that there was no Division upon it in all its stages through the other House, and I therefore hope your Lordships will allow it to pass without further delay. There has been considerable delay already in this matter. The Royal Commission is ready to sit, and is only waiting for the passing of this Bill. I should like to express my regret that the Bill was not circulated with the Papers of the House last night. This circumstance has only just come to my notice, and I am unable to understand why it was not circulated. But as the Bill is in the same form as in another place I hope your Lordships will agree to give it a Second Reading this afternoon. I propose, if the Bill is read a second time to-day, to take the Third Reading on Monday next, on which occasion any Amendments which noble Lords may wish to move can be considered.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

EARL RUSSELL: My Lords, this Bill has only this moment—certainly not five minutes ago—appeared in print in this House. In other circumstances I should have asked the House to adjourn the discussion of the Second Reading until we had had an opportunity of seeing the Bill in print, but I understand from the noble Earl that there are urgent reasons why it should be passed at once. I desire, however, to make some observations on the Bill, but as your Lordships have not seen it and have not got it before you I think it would be as well that I should postpone what I have to say till the Third Reading.

LORD NEWTON: I should like to ask how the noble Earl can take the Third Reading of this Bill on Monday next, to-day being Friday.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: It is perfectly simple. I propose to move, after the Second Reading, that the Bill be committed, and ask the House not to agree to that Motion. The Third Reading could then be taken on Monday.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: What about the Standing Committee. Is it proposed to negative that?

EARL BEAUCHAMP: Yes. But any Amendments which noble Lords may desire to move can be put down for the Third Reading on Monday next.

On Question, Bill read 2ª.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, in moving that this Bill be now committed, I wish to say that there will be every opportunity on Monday of discussing Amendments as well as the principle of the Bill.

Moved, "That the Bill be committed."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: How can Amendments and the principle of the Bill be discussed at the same stage?

LORD NEWTON: This is not at all a satisfactory way of dealing with Amendments. We can only speak once on the Third Reading.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: The noble Earl is proposing to take the final stage of this Bill on Monday. I should like to ask how it is possible to give notice of Amendments to-day and get them printed and circulated by Monday.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: I am afraid the noble Earl has misunderstood me, but I am quite willing to put it down later. I hope, however, that noble Lords will be present in Ascot week to help the Government pass this Bill.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: My Lords, I venture to think that this is not the way in which the Government ought to deal with questions of procedure and the arrangement of business. The course proposed is an entire abrogation of the ordinary rules of Parliamentary procedure. The noble Earl has suggested that we are to discuss the principle and the details of the Bill at the same stage. After a somewhat lengthy Parliamentary experience in both Houses, I must say I have never heard such an extraordinary proposition. I know nothing about the Bill and have no wish to interfere with its speedy passage into law, but I do protest against the doctrine that because next week happens to be Ascot week, and because forsooth it may not be convenient for many of your Lordships to be in your places, therefore Parliamentary procedure is to be abrogated altogether.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: I withdraw my Motion, and will take the Committee stage on Monday.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

FINANCE BILL.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, in accordance with the usual practice I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: My Lords, I was surprised to see this Bill put down for Second Reading to-night. It only came up from another place yesterday, and I had thought that at any rate your Lordships would have been given an opportunity of seeing the Bill and of considering it before the Second Reading was taken. I do not know whether there is any absolute necessity for taking the Second Reading this evening. If there be not I hope His Majesty's Government will be willing to postpone it for a few days in order that we may have an opportunity of expressing our opinions.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, I do not know that there is any objection to the postponing of the Second Reading of this Bill, and certainly any request emanating from the noble Viscount opposite on a question of this character is entitled to the utmost consideration. At the same time, I would like to say that this Bill has generally been read a second time immediately after coming up from the other House. If the noble Viscount would agree to take any discussion, so far as discussion is open to this House, on a subsequent stage, it would, I think, be better, though I will not press the Second Reading at the moment in the face of the objection raised. It is perfectly natural that the noble Viscount should wish to speak upon this Bill, but he could do so on the Third Reading. After all, your Lordships cannot alter the Bill, and as you are not going to object to it, which you could constitutionally do, I do not think it makes very much difference upon which stage of the Bill the discussion is taken. If the noble Viscount does not see that argument I will not, against his wish, press the Second Reading to-day out of consideration for his undoubted claim to express an opinion upon this Bill.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: My Lords, my noble friend is in error in supposing that the Finance Bill has not been occasionally fully and substantially debated in your Lordships' House.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I did not say that there had been no debate upon this Bill. I remember that last year there was a long and interesting discussion upon it. What I said was that I did not see that it much mattered, in the circumstances, on which stage of the Bill the discussion took place.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: It is quite possible that the fact that the Bill was put down for to-day, it having come up from the other House only yesterday, was scarcely noticed by noble Lords who may wish to discuss the Bill on Second Reading. I happened, however, to see that it had been put down, and I desire to make the same appeal to the noble Marquess as has been made by my noble friend Lord St. Aldwyn. The Finance Bill of the year is of such vital importance that, as a matter of precedent, the debate should take place on its Second Reading. In these circumstances, I think it would be better that the noble Marquess the Leader of the House should postpone the Second Reading, not upon the petition of any Member or Members of your Lordships' House, but as a matter of precedent, acknowledging that this is a Bill upon which it is possible the country would care to hear the views of your Lordships.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, after the appeal of my noble friend opposite, I think it would be quite improper that I should press the Second Reading of the Bill at the present moment. At the same time, I wish to insist that the usual course has been taken in this matter. There has been no deviation whatever from precedent on the part of His Majesty's Government, but I agree to the postponement of the Second Reading of the Bill until Tuesday next.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LONDON SQUARES AND ENCLOSURES BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bill; viz., E. Camperdown (chairman), L. Digby, L. Sudley (*E. Arran*), L. James, L. Leith of Fyvie; agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Tuesday the 26th instant, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bill.

House adjourned at ten minutes past Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 15*th June*, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

North East London Railway Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Newport Corporation Bill [Lords] (by Order). Read a second time, and committed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).

Mr. MOONEY reported from the Committee on Group H of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; from Bolton; Corbridge-on-Tyne; Cowden; Heaton; Hurworth; Shelford with Newton and Saxondale; and Stratfield Mortimer; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of law; from Arlesey; Bedford (thirteen); Benwick (two); Biddenham (two); Biggleswade; Bletsoe (two); Bolnhurst (two); Bromham (two); Cambridge (eighteen); Clapham (two); Clifton (two); Cockayne Hatley; Cople; Coughton; Coventry; Cranfield (two); Creed with Grampound; Doddington (two); Downham; Dunstable (two); Dunton; Eaton Bray; Eaton Socon (two); Egginton (two); Evershott (two); Flitton; Goldington; Gouldrop; Gravenhurst (two); Great Barford; Harlington (two); Henlow (two); Houghton Conquest (two); Hulcote and Salford; Kempston (two); Keysoe (two); Knotting; Leighton Buzzard; Lenton; Leverington; Lidlington; Little Ouse; Little Staughton; Long Lawford; Luton (six); Manea (three); March (four); Melchbourne (two); Millbrook; Milton Ernest (two); New Bilton; Newton (two); Newton in the Isle (two); Newton St. Loe; Odell (two); Old Warden; Parson Drove; Potton; Ravensden (two); Renhold; Risely (three); Salford; Sandy (two); Sharnbrook; Shelton (two); Shillington; Silsoe; Southsea with Murrow; Speen (two); Stotfold; Studham; Sundon; Therney; Upper Stondon; Westoning; Whittlesey; Wilshamstead (two); Wisbech St. Mary (two); Woburn (two); Woodside; Wootton; Wymington (three); and Yielding; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Bedford, against; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petitions for alteration of law; from Eastbourne; Guisborough; and Longtown; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Perth, against; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; from Barry; Bournemouth, and other places; Buxton (two); Coventry; Downton, and other places; Dumbartonshire; Dumfries Boroughs; Eastbourne (two); Greenock; Hackney; Haggerston; Hallamshire; Hampstead (two); Helensburgh; Market Harborough (two); Mid Gloucester; North Norfolk; Nottingham (West); Oldham; Partick; Plaistow; Scarborough (two); Sheffield; South Aberdeen; Stirling; and Widnes (two); to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Great Grimsby, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY TRADING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MINT.

Copy presented, of Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Mint, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Accounts presented, showing the Interest accrued in respect of the securities standing in the names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to the credit of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund for the year ended 31st December 1905, and of the Fund for the Banks for Savings and the Fund for Friendly Societies for the year ended 20th November 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 198.]

AFRICA (No. 1, 1906).

Copy presented, of Correspondence respecting the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Administration of the Independent State of the Congo [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

METROPOLITAN POLICE (ARRESTS).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 15th May; Sir Howard Vincent]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 199.]

LUNACY (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Forty-eighth Annual Report of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CANADA.

Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to the complaint of certain printers who were induced to emigrate to Canada by false representations [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EXPERIMENTS ON LIVING ANIMALS.

Address for Return "showing the number of Experiments on Living Animals during the year 1905, under licences granted under the Act 39 and 40 Vic., c. 77, distinguishing the nature of the Experiments (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 170, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Metric System for Weighing Foreign Letters.

MR. KELLEY (Manchester, S.W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether the use of metric weights is allowed by the Post Office for letters addressed to Foreign countries within the Postal Union; and, if so, will he take steps to notify the public that such is the case.

(*Answered by Mr. Sidney Buxton.*) The legal unit of weight for letters from this country to Foreign countries is at present half an ounce. It has been the custom for many years not to surcharge letters found in the post which, though exceeding half an ounce, are under the Postal Union unit weight of fifteen grammes. I do not propose to withdraw this concession, even though it is without legal sanction, but I see no reason for any fresh notification. When the increased weight for Foreign postage comes into force, as the ounce will exceed the equivalent twenty grammes, no allowance for the metric system will be necessary.

Report of Fisheries Board for Scotland.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state why the Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland is not yet in the hands of Members, seeing that it was presented in dummy on 22nd May last.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The printing of the Report has just been completed, and I hope the Report will be available for hon. Members to-morrow.

Introduction of the Crofters Acts Amendment Bill.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary for Scotland, whether he is now in a position to state when the Crofters Acts Amendment Bill will be introduced.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I hope to be so before long.

Pensions and Age Limits for County Court Judges.

MR. BERTRAM (Hertfordshire, Hitchin): To ask Mr. Attorney General whether, looking to the conditions upon which judges of county courts in England hold office, His Majesty's Government will consider the desirability of fixing by legislation an age limit for their compulsory retirement upon a suitable pension proportionate to their length of service.

(*Answered by Sir John Walton.*) There seems little prospect of bringing in any county court legislation this session; and I have ascertained from the Lord Chancellor that he is not prepared to say whether he would propose a system of compulsory retirement for the judges.

Cottages built under the Irish Labourers Act.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many cottages under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts have been built or are at present being built in the counties of Mayo, Galway, Roscommon, and Leitrim.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*)—

County.	Number of Labourers' Cottages built.	Number being built.
Mayo - - - - -	Nil	Nil
Galway - - - - -	44	9
Roscommon - - - -	139	38
Leitrim - - - - -	112	6

Irish Evicted Tenants.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that John and Michael Hartnett were evicted from their holding at Ballygran, in the county of Limerick, in the year 1883 by the landlord, Colonel F. M. Drew, that the land is in the landlord's hands, and will they take steps to see that the surviving evicted tenant is speedily reinstated.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that applications for reinstatement were lodged with them by the evicted tenants named; on whose behalf the Commissioners approached the owner. That gentleman stated that he did not wish to give up the holdings, especially as his tenants generally had taken no steps to purchase. The cases of the evicted tenants will be further considered in the event of the owner selling his estate, or of the Commissioners acquiring untenanted land in the neighbourhood.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the Estates Commissioners have yet made any inquiries into the case of Mary Carey who was evicted from her farm at Ballygran, in the county of Limerick, by the landlord, Colonel F. M. Drew in the year 1883, and, if not, will they do so, with the view to reinstating her in her holding.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Answer to the preceding Question applies to this case also, *mutatis mutandis.*

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether the Estates Commissioners will send an inspector to the county of Limerick to inquire into the cases of evicted tenants in that county with the view to reinstating or otherwise making provision for them.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners intend to send, as soon as possible, an inspector to inquire into and report upon the cases of all evicted tenants in the county of Limerick.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have yet made any inquiries into the case of Robert Dunworth, who was evicted from his holding at Garryfine Bruree, in the county of Limerick, by the landlord, Captain Harkness, in the year 1887, in order that Dunworth may be reinstated.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have not yet been able to make inquiries into this case, but will refer it to one of their inspectors, with a view to effecting a settlement, as soon as may be practicable.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have made any inquiries into the case of the O'Sheas, of Kilmacanerla Croom, in the county of Limerick, who were evicted from their holdings in the year 1889 by the landlord, Colonel M'Adam, which are in the landlord's hands, with a view to bringing about their reinstatement.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have received from Patrick J. O'Shea an application for reinstatement, and will have the case inquired into by one of their inspectors.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the Estates Commissioners will make speedy inquiry into the case of John H. Danaher, now residing at Newcastle West, in the county of Limerick, who was evicted from his farms at Gurtnagross Athea, in the county of Limerick, in the year 1894, having regard to the fact that they have purchased the Gould Verschoyle estate, on which there is a large tract of untenanted land, and on which estate the evicted farms are situate.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners will have inquiries made into the case of J. H. Danaher as soon as possible. Proceedings for the sale of the estate mentioned, which includes 160 acres of untenanted land, were commenced before the Commissioners in November last.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Cornelius Cahill, of Croagh, county Limerick, an evicted tenant, settled with his landlord, Mrs. A. Crosbie, as to his reinstatement, and presented a memorial to the Estates Commissioners asking for a grant to enable him to work his farm; and if he can say what action they intend to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that Cornelius Cahill has applied to them for a grant to develop the resources of the farm in which he has been reinstated. The Commissioners intend to send an inspector to inquire into the case.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

SIR WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures:—Mr. O'Mara; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Dolan.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE BILL [LORDS].

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) in moving the Second Reading of the Public Trustee Bill, said its object was to secure the appointment of a public trustee who would be officially responsible for trust funds committed to his charge, and who would be supported by a guarantee from the Consolidated Fund by means of which all losses would be made good. In the present state of the law and its administration no such official existed. It was impossible in the present condition of affairs that trust funds should be left in hands other than those of private individuals who might be appointed for the purpose, and the inconveniences and mischiefs resulting from that system had been found to be twofold. In the first place it had been found exceedingly difficult to induce any private person to accept the onerous responsibilities attaching by law to the office of a trustee. It was sometimes difficult for a man anxious to leave money to be administered by a trustee to find among his friends, either a person competent to accept such a position or a person willing to incur the obligations attaching to it. It also happened that a person anxious that funds should be administered properly shrank from inviting any of his private friends to accept such a postion. Then also they had to consider the evils attaching to the insecurity which was found to result from leaving large sums of money in the hands of a person who could give no guarantee that the funds should be honestly held and truly administered. There was no security at present available in such cases except that which was to be obtained by the costly processes of the law, and in recent years, under the present system, it had turned out that there had been enormous losses of trust property. He thought his predecessor had made a statement to the effect that during recent years in sixty cases a sum of not less than £152,000 of trust funds had been proved after investigation to have been wasted, and, when one considered the losses of trust funds in cases which had not been publicly investigated, it was obvious that the loss of money was very serious. These losses pressed most heavily upon the poorer classes of the community. It often happened that a man who had accumulated a small patrimony for his children found himself in a position of anxiety as to how he should contrive to leave that patrimony in absolutely secure hands. It often happened that a slender pittance left for the widow and the children disappeared owing to the dishonesty of the persons in whose charge it was left. This question had for a good many years occupied the attention of Parliament. As early as 1889 a Bill was introduced into the House of Lords, very much on the lines of the present measure, with a view to constituting a public office which should give a guarantee in respect of funds which were lost in the course of the administration of a trust and which should obviate the necessity of choosing private persons in whose hands the funds were to be left. That Bill was supported by the most eminent authorities in the country who had great experience in the matter. Several Law Lords advocated the measure, it being supported by Lord Herschell, Lord Halsbury, Lord Watson, Lord Lindley and others. That Bill passed the House of Lords in 1889 and was again introduced and passed through all its stages in 1890. Unfortunately upon its transfer from the one Chamber to the other it entered into the region of measures which were in the state of "suspended animation" in which a number of measures seemed to have been left for a number of years. Until the year 1904 the matter, so far as Parliament was concerned, remained at rest, although public opinion was very active on the subject, and it became apparent that something should be done. In that year this House undertook the investigation of the question and a Select Committee was appointed under the Presidency of the present Lord Chancellor. That Commission included many eminent Members of this House; it sat for a number of days and examined, he thought, no less than eighty witnesses. Those witnesses included many eminent judges, some County Court judges, some eminent members of the Bar, and also prominent members of the solicitors' branch of the profession, who all agreed in the views which had been expressed by the members of the Bench. The result of this investigation was a unanimous report in favour of the change in the law which was now proposed. There was a passage in the report of that Select Committee to which he should like to draw the attention of the House, dealing with the nature of the evils which had been shown to be active in consequence of the existence of the present system. That Committee said—

> "Under present circumstances it is not surprising to learn that much difficulty is found in inducing competent persons to undertake the office of trustee. There can be little doubt that the difficulty is very real, and increasing, especially with poor people, whose circle of relatives does not contain many persons of education. The frequency of instances in which beneficiaries suffer loss from defalcations of dishonest trustees, or the negligence of careless and incompetent trustees, is a very serious matter. Probably few trustees contemplate dishonesty when they first enter upon their duties, or have the opportunity of being dishonest while they are associated with others in the trust. It is when all the trustees except one have died or retired, and no fresh appointments have been made, that the temptation and opportunity arise. The evidence puts it beyond question that large sums of money are annually misappropriated by private trustees. The highest authorities confirm the prevalent

> opinion of the public that much loss and consequent suffering is caused by this kind of malversation, and those who suffer are chiefly the poorer and more helpless."

The Report of the Committee was not surprising in view of the evidence produced before them, and it was also not surprising that the opinion of such competent authorities should have led to proposals for legislation being introduced into this House. Unfortunately it was left to the zeal and energy of private Members to promote that legislation, and his hon. and gallant friend the Member for Sheffield deserved warm commendation for his efforts to forward the question. It was owing to his zeal and assiduity that this question had been kept before the House and the country. His efforts to secure a place for the discussion of this measure by means of the ballot were unsuccessful until 1905, when the hon Member obtained a position which enabled him to bring on the subject before Parliament. The success which attended his efforts was remarkable, because the Bill which he brought forward not only passed unanimously but not a single hostile voice was raised against it. The measure was sent to a Grand Committee and some Amendments were discussed, several of which were adopted. The Bill came back to this House upon Report, but unfortunately there was not quite enough time available to dispose of it; he believed that if another hour of time could have been afforded to the measure it would have been passed into law, and that was a remarkable tribute in regard to the history of this measure. The debate on the Report stage on that occasion disclosed some very remarkable evidence as to some of the evils which the measure sought to rectify. There were two tributes in regard to the Bill to which he should like to call attention. The present Lord Chancellor, who was the Chairman of the Select Committee and who heard all the evidence, expressed the opinion that the necessity for the Bill had arisen because of the lamentable frequency of complaints, especially in regard to the poorer class of estates, which had led to a state of things which had become a public scandal. Under these circumstances the House of Commons passed the Second Reading of the Bill without a word of criticism, and his right hon. and learned friend the then Solicitor-General—the Member for the University of Dublin—lent his valuable services in support of the Bill. His right hon. and learned friend spoke strongly in favour of the measure and alluded to the many pathetic appeals he had received in regard to the misappropriation of trust funds during his tenure of office. Perhaps something ought to be said in regard to the financial responsibility which the administration of this proposal might cast upon the public Exchequer. The best anwer to such a criticism would perhaps be found in the fact that Lord Goschen and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, who had in the past been Chancellors of the Exchequer, and the present Chancellor of the Exchequer all agreed that no charge whatever need be put upon the public revenues in consequence of this change. This was a matter in regard to which they were not without experience. In 1891 a Bill in this direction passed the Legislature of New Zealand, and the system established under it had been in successful operation for fourteen years. Perhaps the House would permit him to read the prospectus of the Public Trust Office of New Zealand. It said—

> "The great advantage offered by the office is an absolute security against loss. If an estate is left to be looked after by a private trustee it may be mismanaged or dishonestly administered, and if there is a loss the widow or children suffer. On the other hand, if the Public Trustee is appointed trustee and the investment of the interest-bearing funds is left to his discretion, every penny of the capital and interest is safe, as the State guarantees this by statute. Trust-moneys are invested in securies fixed by law, and they bear interest from the time of coming into the office. There is thus no loss of interest through delays in investment, as often happens when private trustees are acting."

There were now in the hands of the Public Trustee of New Zealand, a comparatively small and not one of our most wealthy Colonies, a sum exceeding £3,000,000 sterling, and the charges were very small, varying from 1½ to 5 per cent. These charges were imposed for the cost of administration, and although they were small there was a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £7,000 a year. Therefore it was obvious that no public burden would be entailed if the House adopted the policy of the Bill, but that even a surplus over expenditure might be obtained. However, he did not rely upon the financial argument, but upon the principle of the Bill itself. He merely alluded to the financial question in order to show that the Bill would throw no additional burden upon the State. Without going into details he would proceed to explain the provisions of the measure and its general character. In the first place it was proposed to constitute the office of Public Trustee, and in the second place it would be provided that private persons should have power to nominate the Public Trustee as their trustee. In the third place, it provided—and this provision he strongly recommended to the notice of the House—for the administration by the public trustee of very small estates not exceeding £1,000 in value, enabling him to take charge of such estates, and in that way to save all the cost of administration and to distribute the money among those entitled to it with the minimum of expenditure. Then the Bill provided for financial burdens and responsibilities which might arise. There was a clause under which a guarantee from the Consolidated Fund was given in regard to losses which might be occasioned and which would fall on a private trustee. If under the existing law a private trustee was guilty of a breach of trust, a personal liability was incurred, but if similar circumstances arose in connection with the administration of a trust by the public trustee, a guarantee was given out of public funds which gave a security against all breaches of trust and maladministration. He thought he had indicated grounds which should induce the House to give a favourable reception to the measure and to attach the same appreciation to the methods proposed for putting an end to the evil of misappropriation of trust funds as was accorded to the Bill which passed a Second Reading in the last Parliament. He could not imagine that this new House of Commons would be less anxious to pass such a measure.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. RADFORD (Islington, E.), in moving the rejection of the Bill, said it was with great regret that he rose for the first time in this House for the purpose of moving the rejection of what purported to be an important measure of law reform. But when he came to consider the Bill in a benevolent spirit with a predilection in its favour, giving it his best attention, he came to the conclusion that the Bill was likely to be either inoperative or mischievous. In the first place, it was likely to be inoperative, but if inoperative it was necessarily mischievous, because it could not be carried on without great expense to the community. With regard to the objects of the Bill itself, he might say that all sections of the House were in entire sympathy with them. That trust funds should be protected was the wish of every Member of the House; that testators and others who had difficulty in finding trustees should have a trustee found for them, they would also be glad to see. But he thought the difficulty of finding trustees had been too largely dwelt upon by the hon. and learned Attorney-General. The loss of trust funds by the negligence or the misconduct of trustees was a very serious matter. But when the hon. and learned Gentleman stated on the authority of his predecessor in office that £162,000 had been lost in this way he did not hear the hon. and learned Gentleman say over what period the loss was spread or what proportion the money bore to the trust funds invested throughout the country. He thought it would probably be found, when it was compared with the many millions of trust funds in process of administration, that £162,000 was a trifling percentage and that this evil was not widespread. He did not, however, rely on the fact that the percentage of loss was small, because if there was only one trust estate wasted it would be a tragedy which should excite the sympathy of the House. When he looked into this Bill in detail he found it was open to what appeared to be very serious objections indeed. He congratulated the hon. and gallant Member for the Central Division of Sheffield on having his measure adopted by a Liberal Government. He was not only a great legislator himself, but was the cause that legislative activity was in others. He (Mr. Radford) objected to this Bill because it was in the highest degree ambiguous. Ambiguity was to be found throughout the Bill, every clause of which referred to Rules to be made by the Lord Chancellor. He defied anybody to say what the effect would be until these rules had been issued. They had already heard of the evils of legislation by reference, but a greater evil was legislation by delegation. No House of Commons ought to delegate legislation to a Lord Chancellor, however highly respected he might be. If hon. Members would look at the Bill they would see that every clause referred to Rules that were to be made hereafter. He gathered from the hon. and learned Attorney-General that the Bill was to be optional in its character, but he could conceive Rules being made which would make it practically compulsory. If that was so it would be a serious matter for the House to consider. He ventured to think that the hon. and learned Gentleman had not grasped the extent of the power of the Lord Chancellor to make Rules. The House also ought to know whether the Bill was optional or compulsory. If it was optional it would be inoperative, if it was compulsory it would be mischievous. The hon. and learned Member, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, had not referred to the Judicial Trustees Act of 1896. That was an experimental act of legislation for enabling any person who had difficulty in finding a trustee to appoint a judicial trustee who would be a fit and proper person and who would give security. The security was not so good as the security of the Consolidated Fund, but it was sufficiently good. But that Act was a dead letter. He knew of few cases in which a judicial trustee had been appointed and he knew solicitors in large practices who had never seen a judicial trustee. That showed that if legislation was not in accordance with the wishes and habits of the people effective legislation was not obtained. He would be sorry to see one more added to the long list of law reforms that had proved inoperative. It meant the creation of a high and important official without any work to do. But that was not all. This public trustee was to have an office in London, and offices elsewhere, and to appoint deputies throughout the country, if need be, and he would need all that machinery. He was the potential trustee under every will and every marriage settlement in the country, and therefore they could not offer him less than £5,000 a year. This might provide for some poor but deserving King's Counsel, but would not necessarily be an advantage to the country. Moreover, when they paid a high official £5,000 a year, they must appoint a proper number of men to do the work which that official was paid to do. He was therefore to have deputies throughout the country; existing public offices were to be used as far as possible, and the services of existing public servants were also to be utilised. That would seem to suggest that there were more public buildings on our hands than we needed, and he ventured to suggest that money should be realised on the useless and redundant public buildings that we possessed. Let the House consider how large and far-reaching this proposal was. There was a public trustee in London, and a testator in Cornwall or Cumberland. In that case a public trustee in London was no use. There must be some one in the county town, or at least much nearer than London, and the Bill would require machinery as far-reaching as that of the Court of Probate, and probably more expensive. The hon. and learned Gentleman had said there would be no charge on public funds, but unless the response of the public to the invitation held out by this measure was much greater than that to the invitation held out by the Judicial Trustees Act of 1896 there would be a very large expenditure incurred that must come out of either the Consolidated Fund or the capital of the trust estates, which would be a serious inconvenience to those for whom this Bill was primarily promoted, and would interfere with the appointment of public trustees, so long as that appointment was optional. The House had been told this session that economy was the pivot of all reform, and therefore he ventured to suggest to hon. Members that if they desired to effect reforms here they should resist the temptation to create a long line of public offices which might turn out to be sinecures. Clause 14 of the Bill related to investigation and audit of trust accounts. That was the best clause in the Bill, and if that clause alone was passed as a Bill he was not certain that they would not do all the good they were trying to do by this Bill. They were trying to put an end to the misappropriation of trust estates, and if a periodical audit was introduced, as was proposed to be done by Clause 14, the trustee who contemplated fraud and misappropriation would know his course would be a short one; that he would be certain to be detected when his accounts were investigated, and a man did not put trust funds into his own pocket when he knew the time must speedily come when the whole facts would be brought out. He thought this would be a very proper measure as it proceeded on the line of the habits of the people. The best trustees did already audit their trust accounts and furnish particulars, and if the House proceeded in this manner they would be proceeding according to the habits of the people instead of running counter to their ideas by inviting them to appoint a public trustee, who was an utter stranger, to administer their affairs. There was, however, one blot in Clause 14, Sub-section 5, which would render the whole clause nugatory, and that was that the remuneration of the auditor and the expenses of the audit should be paid, unless the public trustee directed otherwise, by the applicant. A wiser course was suggested in the Trust Accounts (Audit) Bill introduced this session by the hon. Member for Clackmannan and Kinross, namely, that the expenses of the audit should be paid by the trust estate; that was only right, because the estate was preserved by the audit, and therefore it should bear the cost of it. If the Government chose to force this measure through by means of their majority, of course they could do so. He only wished they had chosen some more useful measure out of those which were now congesting Parliament. This Bill, if passed to-day, would want serious consideration in Committee, and the two points that would have to be particularly regarded were, first, the functions of the trustee, which would have to be defined in the Bill and not left to be sketched out hereafter by the Lord Chancellor under his Rules, and, secondly, by the payment of the expense of the audit. The Lord Chancellor had such a wide discretion under Clause 6 that he could determine whether he would make Rules to enable the public trustee to apply for probate or not. The Lord Chancellor had been considering this question ever since 1894, and it was hardly respectful to the House to have such an important matter still undecided. He suggested that it should be made perfectly clear in the Bill what the functions of this gentleman were to be, and whether the Bill was to be optional or compulsory. He begged to move that the Bill be read a second time this day three months.

*MR. R. PEARCE (Staffordshire, Leek) said he rose to second this Motion with considerable diffidence. It was a difficult matter for one who usually followed the lead of the Government to stand up against the great array of authorities which had been adduced by the hon. and learned Attorney-General in support of this Bill. The attention of the public had been drawn to this matter by the dishonesty and fraud that had taken place. But the remedy for that evil which they must all admit existed was not the appointment of a public trustee. If they appointed a public trustee because trustees were dishonest they might as well appoint some one to carry on the business of a grocer, because grocers sometimes gave short weight or sold adulterated goods, and in like manner to take care of all the trades in the country. Although he sympathised with those who had lost their money by reason of their trustees being fraudulent, he submitted that we must deal with the criminals as we had been accustomed to deal with them in the past, by means of the criminal courts, and trust to the deterrent effect of the criminal law. But that was not the real evil that existed in this matter; the real evil was the difficulty of getting good trustees to act, the supineness of those appointed, and the love of a little power and authority which influenced them in their decisions and made them difficult to deal with in the execution of their duty. What was wanted in relation to trustees was not a series of public officers, because that would only add another trustee; the public trustee under this Bill was a hydra-headed monster with various powers, which seemed to him to be likely to swallow up the small estates which would come under his administration. The position of trustees and their beneficiaries was well known to the House. It was a position similar to that in which the Attorney-General might be a trustee for him (Mr. Pearce) to manage his private affairs, and perhaps in some other capacities he might be trustee for the Attorney-General and manage his private affairs, and they would, of course, be obliged to consult each other, and hence delays and difficulties. Perhaps he might be allowed to point out that there had been a tendency of late for the Court of Chancery to give the life tenant the management of the estate. In spite of all wills and settlements, under the Settled Lands Act the tenant for life could actually sell the property of the trust without the concurrence of the trustees. He would suggest that the multiplication of public offices was not the way in which this matter ought to be dealt with. It would be much better to have the management of the estates in the hands of the beneficiaries, which in other words, meant the person selected by the well known rules of the Court of Chancery, or the Court of Probate, which selected, where there were several persons equally entitled, the person best qualified to be entrusted with the management of the estate. If they gave a selected beneficiary in that way the right to administer the estate, they would at once get rid of all the trouble of private trustees. Let the beneficiary do everything under the sanction of an order issued by some proper Court. If the estate was a large one, and they did not mind the expense, then Chancery was the best court for the purpose. But there were plenty of officials who could undertake this work now on the application of the beneficiary. Let him apply to the registrar of the county courts, or the district registrar of the probate court, and there ask for an order. If the application was a proper one the registrar would, as a matter of course, give the order, and there would be no further trouble. All those persons who were interested in the payment of dividends and interest would only have to see that they had this order, and then they could pay their dividends in accordance with that order and be free from any further liability. He would not go through all the advantages which would be secured by the scheme he had suggested, but he thought it was his duty to suggest what he thought was a better remedy to obtain the laudable object which the Government had in view. Then they would have a proper record kept of the trusts from the initiation to the close, they would have a record showing all that had happened to the trust, all the property in it, and all the changes that had taken place. That would secure the due administration of the whole funds. The registrars of county courts and district probate courts had their offices all ready; the beneficiary could manage the whole estate perfectly well, and he was the person who was now giving services which were of such incalculable value in all these trusts. They spoke of sympathy with the widow or orphan who might suffer, but that was nothing compared with the unpaid care bestowed by the beneficiary interested in the family. They would not be doing right by creating a paid official to destroy the affection and care which unpaid trustees and beneficiaries already used in the administration of trusts. How could a public trustee deal with the family feelings and the conduct of affairs under wills and settlements like the beneficiary who was interested and who knew how the income was to be administered? He was the proper person marked out by the habits and customs of the people to do this, and under the plan he (Mr. Pearce) was now suggesting the expense would be extremely small. If the Attorney-General would agree to postpone the Bill for three months, he would be prepared to bring forward a proper Bill on the lines he had advocated. There were in this Bill three or four underlined clauses which gave them pause. The Treasury was to be made answerable for the whole cost. It was a most inopportune thing that they should have such a demand made upon the public purse in relation to this matter. He did not know anything that was more insisted upon during the last election than the cutting down of expenditure, and now one of the first things they saw was this proposal to follow the example of the late Government in their extravagant policy. Why did the Lord Chancellor want to create a host of officers on the chance of getting back the money from the estates? This was not the time to make a charge upon the public revenue, and at any rate he thought it might be put off for the next three months, so that they could see exactly where they stood in matters of expenditure. He appealed to the Irish Members present. How could they expect the Irish language to be revived if money was to be frittered away in the appointment of public trustees. He also appealed to the Labour Members to support him in opposing this Bill. It was perfectly well known that labour had to pay in the end for everything. He protested against his working class friends being called upon to work in order to raise money for the payment of a public trustee out of public funds, for the administration of private trusts, which could very easily be paid for out of those private trusts themselves. Why should they undertake to manage the private trusts of this country at the expense of the public when it could be perfectly well done by the unpaid and affectionate care of the beneficiary sanctioned by orders such as he had described. He trusted that if the Second Reading of this Bill was carried, the Government would give some assurance that in Committee provision would be made that no expense of any kind should be put upon the public.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Radford.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now,' stand part of the Question."

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said he thought credit was due to the Government for having brought this Bill forward. He was sorry that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the University of Dublin was not able to be present, but he knew that he was heartily in sympathy with the objects of this Bill, for he had shown it in the clearest possible way when this same measure was brought forward by the late Government. It would have passed in the last Parliament had there been sufficient time to deal with it thoroughly, and it was only prevented from passing through the opposition which came from only one or two hon. Members. This measure dealt with an entirely non-political matter, and its principal object was to diminish the enormous losses which the community had sustained in recent years by the defalcations of trustees, and the robbery of trust estates. Within the last six months there had been numerous cases of defalcations which had inflicted untold suffering upon widows and orphans, which would have been largely obviated if the Bill of last year had passed. He was glad the Attorney-General had not found it necessary to say anything in depreciation of the most honourable profession to which the two hon. Gentlemen belonged. He was sorry that the hon. Member for East Islington had not followed the lines of his predecessor in the representation of that constituency. He would like to read a passage from a speech made by Sir Albert Rollitt upon this measure. He said that a good deal of plundering of the poor by the misuse of trust funds took place, and it was the desire of the learned profession that everything possible should be done to prevent this. He thought that in this Bill which had been framed by the Lord Chancellor everything that was possible had been done to meet the legitimate wishes of the legal profession. Nobody had the slightest desire to depreciate that profession, and, because there were some black sheep amongst them, they ought not to tar the whole profession with the same brush. Clause 11 dealt fully with this matter not only as regarded solicitors, but also as regarded the banking profession. Some fear was shown by Sheffield bankers in regard to this clause at first, but they had since expressed themselves as being satisfied with it. He thought the provisions contained in Clause 1 would be found to be thoroughly satisfactory, not only to the legal profession, but also to those bankers and accountants who had entertained some opposition to the former Bill. Ample security was given in Clause 15, which provided that every rule was to be laid before each House of Parliament. He thought that that provided ample security that the Rules would be such as would conduce to the efficient working of the Act, and he did not think that they would operate in any sense whatever to the detriment of any person taking advantage of the Bill. An appeal had been made to Irish Members to support the rejection of the Bill, but he would remind them that the Bill did not apply to Ireland, and it should not be forgotten that breaches of trust in Ireland were much fewer than in this country. Hon. Members representing Scotland knew that judicial trustees had always been the universal rule in Scotland. It was upon the excellent example set by Scotland that the Select

Committee upon Trust Administration recommended the appointment of judicial trustees. An appeal had also been made to working men and to the Labour Members to oppose this measure, but he would like to mention that Mr. Broadhurst spoke strongly upon this subject, and was so much convinced of the absolute necessity of such a Bill that he went to the late Government and represented that the enactment of the measure would be a blessing to the poor. He might also state that the President of the Local Government Board took a most active part in obtaining support for this Bill. The hon. Member for Woolwich also was a teller with him in several divisions upon the Bill, in which five or six to one voted in its favour. In face of these facts, he hoped the hon. Gentleman opposite would withdraw the Motion for the rejection of the Bill, and allow the Second Reading to pass unanimously in order that the Bill might be referred to a Committee. They would then be able to assist the promoters of the Bill by all the means in their power to enact the measure with such Amendments as might be considered necessary. The Attorney-General had expressed the willingness of the Government to consider any reasonable Amendments in Committee. The measure had been introduced entirely in the interests of the community at large, and it would be a thousand pities if, after all these pains had been taken, the Opposition from a very limited source should succeed in wrecking it once more. He earnestly trusted that the House would agree to the Second Reading.

*MR J. M. HENDERSON (Aberdeenshire, W.) said that he very much regretted that in addressing the House for the first time he found himself in opposition to a Liberal Government, having been a staunch Liberal all his life. But this Bill was not their child. It was an adopted child. He did not wish in the least to minimise the evil that existed in regard to the maladministration of trusts. For a quarter of a century he had had most intimate connection with the administration of trusts, and he believed that about 20 per cent. of the trusts of this country were maladministered from one cause or another. There was first of all the benevolent trustee who was anxious to get as much money as he could for the life renter; he agreed against his better judgment to invest in securities bringing a higher interest than he ought to do, having regard to the nature of the securities. Then there was the widow executrix with two daughters and one son, the son being the apple of her eye, but turned out to be a bad apple. By the time the girls came of age to get their money they found that the "apple" had had it all, or most of it. There was the trustee who borrowed securities and put them in pledge, in order to help him over a difficult moment. If things went right the securities came out of pledge, but if they went wrong the securities were lost; and so on through various gradations until they came down to the brigand trustee who simply annexed the money and bolted. How was this Bill going to remedy that evil? They were told that in New Zealand the system proposed by this Bill had been adopted. He would take it for granted that that was so: New Zealand was a new country and had been accustomed to a benevolent officialdom ever since it had existed. Its inhabitants did not number many more than the population of Glasgow, and a public trustee might be a success there, while in a highly civilised country like Great Britain, with the traditions of centuries, where the habits of the people had grown up in the course of time, such an official might be a failure. He was absolutely certain that in not 10 per cent. of the wills would a public trustee be appointed. The people of this country disliked officialism in private affairs. The hon. and gallant Member for Central Sheffield who introduced the Bill last year and again this year had founded his case on an absolute misstatement of fact. He had said that in Ireland there was very little defalcation, while in Scotland there was a very excellent law called the Judicial Trustee Act which effectually prevented such a thing happening. He had hoped to see the Lord Advocate laugh at that statement, because he knew that it was ridiculous. He was glad to hear that there was no defalcation in Ireland, and he wanted the Irish Members to tell the House how that came about, because it was certainly not by the existence of a public trustee. He had known cases of great defalcation in Scotland, and they occasionally occurred now. But, speaking generally, there was immunity from defalcations in

Scotland, owing simply to the business faculty of the people. It arose from the almost universal practice in Scotland of having the trust accounts audited every year. The remedy for the state of things complained of lay at their door if they cared to pick it up. It was found that there was a flaw in the Bankruptcy Act of 1869, and in 1883 an Act was passed to put a stop to defalcations. What in the 1883 Act had stopped defalcations? The audit. What had made the judicial factor in Scotland a success? The audit. What was the principal protection under the Judicial Trustee Act? Simply the audit. What had made the defalcations under trust deeds possible?

> "How oft the sight of means to do ill deeds
> Makes ill deeds done!"

The trustee knew that if he had a trust for children ten or twelve years of age he had ten years to run and nobody to bring him to book when the accounts were not subject to audit. Defalcations were not so likely to occur where trust accounts were audited every year as they were largely in England now, and as they had been almost universally in Scotland for years. The hon. and gallant Member for Central Sheffield must know of the case of the Corporation of Sheffield *v.* Barclay. In that case a trustee forged a transfer in 1896, and the forgery was not discovered until he died in 1903, but if there had been an audit every year could it be supposed that that trustee would have touched the money? He would have known that he had facing him an audit in a few months time when he would have to produce the stock, and that he would be unable to do so. That and similar cases had brought about the cry for some public functionary whose business it would be at the public expense to protect trust funds. He admitted that there were cases of the poor where some protection was required. But why use enormous machinery like that proposed to save poor people's money when it could be done through the County Court, and through half-a-dozen ways without this machinery? They were told that it was to protect the poor. It was nothing of the kind. It was a great measure for public trustees, in all estates throughout the country. If it was to be successful they must have a whole host of officials. They were told that it would cost the State nothing. They were told that when the Act of 1883 came into force, but according to the Report for 1904 it was costing the country over £20,000 now. If that was the cost where trade money was concerned, what would be the cost of this measure if only 10 or 20 per cent. of the people took advantage of its provisions? He asked the House to consider how this Act would work. Let them imagine a widow in her trouble at the death of her husband: instead of a friend of the family coming with his sympathy and assisting her for a time, there would be a man from Somerset House who would take an inventory of and seal up everything. Would anyone wish that to be done? If any man had a difficulty in getting a trustee for his estate he could obtain the help he required under the Judicial Trustees Act. Reference had been made to the Judicial Factors Act. A judicial factor might be anybody the Court appointed; he was not a functionary with an established office and all the paraphernalia proposed by this Bill. If only 20 per cent. of the people took the benefit of this measure the mischief complained of would still go on in the case of the remaining 80 per cent. and the cost of administration must cause heavy loss to the Exchequer. The only good thing in the Bill came in at the tail, and that was very imperfect. It provided the protection of an audit to anyone who applied. The true remedy for defalcations might be found by passing a short Act ordering that every trust account should be audited and filed along with the will at Somerset House where any beneficiary might go and see the account from time to time. The difficulty a beneficiary had with a trustee at present was this. He might think that things were not going right, but he did not like to ask the trustee, probably a member of his own family, for information in regard to the accounts; he wished to avoid anything which might give offence to the trustee. If there was a place where he could go without the intervention of the trustee and by paying a shilling see what was doing in the trust, the whole difficulty would be got over. The whole thing could be done for a very small sum. He might tell the House that he had seen a trust estate of £100,000 capital, income £3,000 with an audit fee of seven guineas per annum; another trust estate of £250,000 capital with an income of £6,000, audit fee twenty guineas. By adopting the system he recommended, the whole thing could be done by excellent men for a very small sum on the poorest estates—there was no difficulty at all in the matter—without creating at great expense an enormous establishment of officials, all of whom would have to be pensioned. He spoke from large experience, and he was perfectly certain that, no matter what the learned Attorney-General might say, with the means he suggested not 20 per cent. but the whole 100 per cent. of testator's money would be protected, and the robbery of trust monies would be effectually stopped. He appealed to the House to adopt this purer, securer, and more economic way. This was not the time to risk £20,000 or even £5,000 a year of State monies. Only yesterday the Scottish Members cried out for £20,000 to help them in Scotland out of their educational difficulties. If this Bill passed there would be an official in every town and village in England and he was certain the cost would be £30,000 a year to the country. He held a brief for no class or party—not even the chartered accountants, of whom he was one. In Scotland the trustee had to keep a capital account, an income account, and a list of securities. These securities had to be produced every year, inspected by the auditor and certified accordingly. But if they started the machinery under this Bill they would be establishing an enormous bureaucracy. He appealed to the Government to drop this child, and let its putative father have it back again. It was not a Bill for a Liberal Government to adopt at all.

*MR. GEORGE FABER (York) said that the reason why he rose to say a few words on this Bill was that, as a banker, he took an insignificant part in opposition to the Bill of last year when it was in Committee. It was therefore due to the House that he should explain the sentiments he now held toward the measure, introduced by his hon. and learned friend the Attorney-General. Let him say at once that as a banker, speaking in his own behalf, and in behalf of a number of country bankers, he viewed this Bill with a much more benevolent eye than the Bill of last year. Indeed, he might go further and say that not only was this Bill, as introduced in another place, in a more palatable form to bankers than the Bill of last year, but that when it went into Committee in another place, the Lord Chancellor accepted suggestions made by bankers with such cordial and kindly consideration, that certain of the bankers' objections were largely removed, more especially in regard to Clause 11. What the country bankers feared in regard to the Bill as originally introduced was that there was going to be a large central establishment set up in this metropolis controlled by Government officials and that the inevitable result would be to sweep money away from different parts of the provinces, where it was most wanted to promote commerce and industry, to London. That, they contended, would be most inimical to the provinces and to the banking community in the provinces. Clause 11, although it did not go the whole way, went a certain way to meet the views of the country bankers. It said that—

> "The public trustee may employ for the purposes of the trust such . . . bankers . . . as he may consider necessary, and in determining the persons to be so employed in relation to any trust the public trustee shall have regard to the wishes of the creator of the trust and of the other trustees (if any), and of the beneficiaries, either expressed or as implied by the practice of the creator of the trust, or in the previous management of the trust."

That was a distinct direction in the Bill. If A. B. in Sheffield, Leeds, or Manchester acted as banker to a testator, the public trustee should have regard to that fact and should continue to employ him. Therefore, that clause had gone far to mitigate the inimical opinion of the country bankers regarding the Bill. He could not say on behalf of himself or of bankers generally that they approached the Bill with open arms; but if the Bill had to be passed, he confessed that a kindly endeavour had been made to meet their opinions on the matter. He hoped the House would not consider that bankers were without bowels of compassion. He might say that he had been largely impressed by what the hon. and learned Gentleman the Attorney-General said in his opening speech. They all knew that there had been serious defalcations in the matter of trusts by trustees and others. Nobody could read the newspapers without knowing that.

But what he wanted to impress on the House was that they must be careful, in running away from one evil, that they did not run into another; that in seeking to avoid the dangers of Scylla they did not run on the rocks of Charybdis. He saw difficulties in working the Bill. He assumed that the Bill was to be voluntary; that there was to be no compulsion at all. As regarded poor estates he would point out that in the early part of the Bill the public trustee was given an option as to whether he would take up such estates or not. In Clause 2 it was stated that—

> "Subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, the public trustee may, if he thinks fit for the purpose of saving expense to persons of small means, act in the administration of estates of small value."

SIR JOHN WALTON: The hon. Member should refer to Sub-section 3 of Clause 2.

*MR. GEORGE FABER (reading)—

> "The public trustee shall not decline to accept any trust on the ground solely on the small value of the trust."

Very well; he would leave that point, and venture to put the matter a little more broadly. Did hon. Members believe that the people of this country would be largely inclined to take up the machinery provided by the Bill? He should doubt it. He tried to put himself in the position of the public, and not of a a banker. The people of this country generally did not like officialism; and over and above that he asked himself, would the machinery of the Bill conduce to efficiency in winding up estates? That was an important question. He doubted it. To begin with, the public trustee would not necessarily be a business man. He was to be chosen from a public Department. Having been in official life in a large office for nine years, he might be allowed to say, with some degree of knowledge, that public servants were not always business men. And that was one of the dangers of the measure, if care was not taken, that they were going to run estates into great risks. A man might be a good public official, but a bad business man. This Bill would hold out to the whole community the idea of making use of this Department. There would be many people who would assume that a man appointed to be public trustee would know all about business; but the reverse might be the case. Some years ago he was appointed trustee to a very complicated and difficult estate which required a great deal of care and attention to handle to the best advantage. It was not the case of a business but of an estate which included all sorts of securities and mortgages which had to be dealt with. In order to fully realise that estate it was necessary that it should be wound up gradually, and time was wanted for that purpose. The securities had to be realised at the proper moment and the mortgages called in gradually. It was eleven years ago since he was appointed trustee, and that estate was not wound up to-day, although he believed he had conducted the business to the best advantage, both of those who owed money to the estate and of the estate itself. If the House passed this Bill, and a public trustee was appointed, they all knew that red tape covered all official proceedings, and that trustee might not think it his duty to give the time and trouble that he himself had given in dealing with this particular estate. The public trustee would want to wind up the estate at once, and this in many cases would mean immense loss and disadvantage, not only to the estate itself, but to those who were indebted to it. There was nothing within the four corners of the Bill to provide that the public trustee should be a business man, and even if he were he would probably become saturated with officialism. He would not, in all probability, take a broad view, but he would put all estates upon the same footing and wind them up in the same way. To take another point, it was not likely that the public trustee was going to run any risks. How was he going to invest trust money? He knew what he should do if he were in the position of the public trustee. He should put everything into Consols. Of course, the beneficiaries would suffer, because a much less income would be obtained, but risk would be avoided. One could not help being driven to the conclusion that on the whole the change proposed by the Bill was not going to redound to the benefit or the advantage of the public. Was there not a remedy for the evils of which complaint was made without resort to legislation of this character? They all knew that there were large companies and corporations whose financial position was beyond doubt and who acted in the capacity in which the public trustee would act under this Bill. These companies were above suspicion, and they now carried on this class of business. He was inclined to believe that the safety valve was to be found there, and if that was so, was there any sufficient reason for loading the Statute-book with a Bill of this kind? The working of the Bill would, he thought, be very costly. It was said that it was not going to cost anything, and the hon. and learned Attorney-General had said that former Chancellors of the Exchequer and the present Chancellor of the Exchequer agreed that no charge upon the public revenue was likely to arise. He could not help feeling, however, that unless some form of mutual insurance was provided in regard to every estate that came within the purview of the public trustee, there must be some loss to the public Revenue. In that case the beneficiaries would provide their own insurance, while the public trustee administered the trusts. It was in his judgment doubtful whether the system would work out to the advantage of the beneficiaries or would result in economic administration. It appeared that everybody who put their estate in the hands of the public trustee would have to contribute to a mutual insurance system, and if a loss supervened the State would reimburse themselves out of the insurance fund. He disagreed with the hon. Member who suggested that they should pay £5,000 a year to the public trustee. He should think that £1,500 a year would be quite sufficient. The Permanent Secretary to the Treasury received only £1,500 a year, and surely that sum would also be sufficient for the public trustee. But whatever the salary was, he should like to know whether the Exchequer was going to pay it, or whether it was to come out of the pool provided by the sums obtained from the estates themselves. He was not treating this as a Party question, but, as a member of the community he was discussing whether the remedy held out was really going to fulfil the aspirations of those who believed in it and remove the evils of which complaint was now made. Upon the Second Reading he would not vote against the Bill, although he reserved his rights to discuss in Committee the points he had put forward.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said he wished to make an appeal to the supporters of the Bill not to continue the discussion at any length. There was a large number of uncontentious measures following it upon the Paper, and when he was pressed to put this Bill down first it was understood that the discussion would go through very quickly. Of course, he could not appeal to those hon. Members who were opposed to the Bill to forward it, but he thought he was justified in appealing to those who supported it to help the Government in passing the measure.

*MR. BERTRAM (Hertfordshire, Hitchin) said that after the speech of the Patronage Secretary he only desired to make a few observations to the House. He was a member of a profession which was largely interested in this question, and after a careful study of the Bill before the House he was entirely favourable to it. His speech would resolve itself into an appeal to the hon. Member for East Islington to withdraw his opposition. The hon. Member, who belonged to the same profession as himself, had put his arguments with great force, but he hoped that he would not persist in his resistance to the Bill. The opposition was conducted on two main grounds. First of all, it was said that the creation of a public trustee and of a new Government department would entail additional expenditure by the taxpayers of this country, and secondly, it was said that people would not be anxious to avail themselves of the advantages offered by the Bill. In his judgment beneficiaries, and particularly poor beneficiaries, would be most anxious to avail themselves of the provisions of the Bill and to take advantage of a system which would not only preserve the trust funds but enable them to let in the light of day upon trust accounts. That was the chief purpose of the Bill, and it was because the Bill provided the machinery to enable poor people, who had few friends or advisers, to obtain proper administration of their affairs, that he supported it. He was not concerned for rich people, because they could safeguard their interests by appointing eminent solicitors or bankers as trustees. It was, however, desirable that a Bill should pass which provided machinery to enable poor people to secure a trustee upon whom they could depend, and he was sure that if the poor people of the country came to understand the Bill it would be largely operative. If it became so the other ground of opposition to the Bill failed, because the department of the public trustee would under such circumstances pay for itself. He could not help thinking, however, that the success of the experiment must depend upon the care which was exercised by the Government in starting the machinery, and by the agents who were responsible for the management of the department. It was necessary that their methods should be cheap and economical. If that policy was pursued, he thought there was every reason to expect that we should, if not at once, in a short time see an end of dishonesty on the part of bankers and solicitors who became trustees, and of those pitiable and sordid crimes which inflicted great hardship upon and destroyed the homes of poor people. As he had said, his sympathy was not with those who could afford to employ bankers and solicitors and obtain expert opinion. Rich people could always obtain an expert to conduct their affairs and pay him a considerable salary in addition to pickings out of the estate. This was not possible in the case of a poor man, and he desired to support this Bill because he considered it would be of great benefit to the people of the country whose small savings were constantly in danger of being misappropriated by dishonest trustees.

*MR. HILLS (Durham) said that, speaking as a solicitor, he should support the Bill. He did not intend to deal with the measure itself, because it had already been sufficiently dealt with. What were the grounds of opposition to it? The first was that it was not required. In his opinion it needed a great deal of courage to come down and tell the House that this Bill, for which there had been a growing demand for many years past, was not required. He might say that members of the profession to which he belonged were especially in favour of the measure. He himself had always been a supporter of its principle, and his support had grown stronger as time went on. The Attorney-General had, he thought, minimised very considerably the amount of the defalcations by trustees. He had put the sum at £162,000, extending over a period of years. That estimate was much too small. In his own personal experience of fifteen years he had himself known cases in which the total loss was far larger than that.

SIR JOHN WALTON said the sum he had mentioned was only the amount of the defalcations which had come to the official knowledge of his predecessor. It did not include very large sums which had undoubtedly been lost, but of which there was no official knowledge.

*MR. HILLS, said he was sorry he had misunderstood the hon. and learned Gentleman. The losses had undoubtedly been very large. As to expense, the experience of New Zealand, a poor country, was conclusive on that point. He was quite of opinion that the procedure provided would be very largely used, and if it were largely used it would easily pay its way. Next, as to the complaint of officialdom. He thought the hon. Member for York, who was very severe on officials, was a standing example to the contrary. He had explained to the House with what great care and skill he had managed a large and complicated estate, and at the same time he had told them that for many years he was a Government official. Surely he could not separate himself into two parts like that, and he for one was quite confident that the hon. Member would show in an official capacity the same care and skill that he had shewn in his private capacity. All the points which he (Mr. Hills) had dealt with were purely negative. Two schemes had been proposed to take the place of this Bill, and the first of those schemes was a compulsory audit. In the first place the present Bill gave a very good machinery for audit, and in the next he did not think an audit alone was sufficient. Certain classes of fraud could not be discovered by the auditor, and he thought we must have some means by which people who were poor and had few friends of business training could be quite certain of obtaining a competent adviser and director on their business affairs. The most plausible alternative to the Bill was that there should be an assimilation of the law of personal property to the law of settled estates. The Settled Land Act had worked extremely well, and for the very simple reason that the man who was life tenant and was trustee for himself, could not by any means steal the land. But it was quite different when they came to the case of personal property. If it was invested in stocks, they stood in his name, or, at all events, the cash would pass through his hands, and, anyhow, it could not be contended that that was on the same basis as settled land. Even though the man was honest, he had a great temptation to mix the trust fund with his own property, and hopeless confusion would certainly arise. He appealed to the Government to make this Bill as simple and cheap as possible. For small estates it would at present be too expensive, for the public trustee could charge a fee and employ solicitors. He suggested that no fee should be charged in small estates; but that was a question which could be considered in Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE ACT (1882) AMENDMENT BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for the Second Reading read.

SIR JOHN WALTON, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said the best testimony in its favour was that the Lords in their legislative capacity supported it in order to correct the effect of their decisions in their judicial capacity. A measure similar to this had with this purpose been introduced by an ex-Lord Chancellor into the House of Lords and passed through that House three times. The effect of the decision which it was desired to correct was that if a crossed cheque was credited by a banker to his customer before he recieved payment, and if it turned out that the customer was not entitled to the cheque, the banker would be liable for the amount, although he had credited his customer with it in good faith and for that customer's convenience. The amendment of the law was not so much a banker's as a commercial question; for if the banker was not to be considered as merely acting as agent for his customer, and if he could not immediately treat the cheque paid into a customer's account as one against which that customer could draw, there would be an impediment to commerce. In ninety-nine cases out of 100 a crossed cheque paid into a customer's account was as good as cash, and if the banker was not allowed to regard it as safe to give the usual accommodation to the customer great inconvenience and delay in commercial transactions must result.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge) thanked the Attorney-General for bringing in this Bill, and agreed with him that it dealt with a commercial rather than a banker's question. With the banker this was merely a question of bookkeeping. It was only because bankers had taken a risk which they were not obliged to take, and had trusted to Parliament to amend the law, that commercial proceedings had not been thrown out of gear. On Stock Exchange Settlement days an enormous number of cheques were paid into the banks, and put one against another in the bankers' books so that stocks could at once be delivered. If the bankers chose to say that in consequence of legal decisions based on the wording of the Act of Parliament they would not credit the cheques to the accounts of customers until they had been cleared, Stock Exchange business would be delayed. The Bill was absolutely necessary because customers could not ask their bankers to take that risk, and it was necessary to put the bankers in the position which they were supposed, before these legal decisions were given, to occupy.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said he also thanked the Government for bringing in this little measure which was simply a measure of justice to give effect to what was really the intention of the legislature to give protection to the banker. The difficulty had arisen from the words in Section 82 of the Act "for a customer." The House of Lords in its judicial capacity took the line that under certain circumstances the bankers collected cheques, not for their customers, but for themselves. It would be, as the hon. and learned Attorney-General pointed out, most inconvenient if all crossed cheques had to be placed to a suspense account until they had been cleared. Suppose an ordinary commercial cheque was sent to a tradesman, and his clerk misappropriated it, endorsed his employer's signature, and paid it into his own account, and drew the money and absconded, the banker had no protection as he had before the decisions of the House of Lords had been given. He thanked the Government for bringing in this Bill.

*MR. GEORGE FABER (York) said he agreed entirely with what his hon. friend had said in support of the Bill. It would be of ultimate advantage to every one who possessed a banking account, and passed crossed cheques through it. The decision of the House of Lords practically said that bankers, by not taking the course of hanging up crossed cheques in a suspense account until they were cleared, had taken upon themselves the risk of their not being paid. Bankers had so acted for the sake of the community in order not to throw out of gear the cheque system of this country. Now that the community had seen the risk which bankers took for them, it was quite time that the bankers should be done an act of justice in this matter, otherwise it might become necessary for bankers to hang up cheques until they were cleared.

*SIR ARTHUR BIGNOLD (Wick Burghs) said he was sure that the Attorney-General was well acquainted with the present Clearing House system which solely depended upon the various banks who went to the Clearing House treating crossed cheques paid in by customers as cash. As an illustration: if a man's banking account was in credit, say £100, and he received various cheques amounting to £400,000 or £500,000 and paid the same in to his banking account at one minute to four, having drawn cheques for a like amount himself, he could attend at the Clearing House an hour afterwards and then ascertain that all the cheques he had both received and paid had been honoured. This was accomplished by what was known as the system of reading. But beyond the ordinary crossed cheque was the crossed cheque with the words "not negotiable" written between the lines, the virtue of the words "not negotiable" being, under an Act passed by the late Lord Cairns, that the holder of the cheque—no matter through how many hands it might pass—had a no better title to the money it represented, than had the party from whom he (the holder) had received it. This gave protection to the drawer in case of those cheques which had been lost or stolen, which protection the ordinary crossed cheque did not possess. He hoped that the learned Attorney-General would be in a position to assure the House that the Act now proposed would in no way interfere with or over-ride the Act of Lord Cairns.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Read a second time, and committed to a Select Committee of Five Members, Three to be nominated by the House, and Two by the Committee of Selection.

Ordered, That all Petitions against the Bill presented Five clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee; that the Petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their Counsel, or Agents be heard against the Bill, and Counsel heard in support of the Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Three be the quorum."—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

CHARITABLE LOAN SOCIETIES (IRELAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) said that he was under the impression that a Motion was to have been moved that the Bill should be read that day three months, but since that opposition had evidently been withdrawn it would be unnecessary for him to submit the arguments which he believed would have in any case persuaded the whole House to permit the Bill to pass through uncontested. Those Members who were thoroughly acquainted with the hardships of the large number of investors in the Debentures of loan societies in Ireland, especially in the counties of Fermanagh, Tyrone, and Donegal, would agree with him that through a fault in the law, and owing to a decision under that law, a great hardship had undoubtedly been imposed on debenture holders which this Bill was now brought forward to correct. There were something like 1,000 cases where the maximum investment was under £10; he supposed the average would be £4. The amount of money outstanding under the Bill which it was hoped to recover was about £45,000. Although it could not be presumed that the whole of that amount would be eventually recovered, still even if half were recovered from the defaulting societies it would certainly be a great advantage, particularly in Fermanagh, where he was personally acquainted with the facts of the case. On the face of it this might not appear to be a very important Bill. It might seem to be a Bill designed simply to correct a legal error or to assist where another Bill had failed. The root of the Bill dealt with a much-felt want, which was to recover money for those who in their innocence had subscribed to the debentures of these various societies. Clause 4, which had been introduced by the Attorney-General, showed great wisdom. He was glad it met with the approval of every section of the House, because very often, when monies were recovered where debts were long outstanding, a little hardship might be inflicted. In this clause great tolerance was shown by providing that the total amount recoverable in respect of any loan made under the principal Act should in no case exceed the amount lent, together with simple interest thereon at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum. As to the extension of time for taking proceedings under 14 & 15 Victoria, chapter 93, the Bill simply proposed to extend the period from six months to twelve months. He appealed to hon. Members on both sides of the House to allow the Bill to pass, especially in the interests of the counties of Fermanagh, Tyrone, and Donegal.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported without Amendment; Bill read the third time, and passed.

FATAL ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS INQUIRY (SCOTLAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. YOUNGER (Ayr Burghs) moved that it be read a second time six months hence. He declared that they had always had a system of very full inquiry into all cases of death by accident in Scotland. That system did the work which coroners in England did, and did it quite as well, and he failed to see why it should be superseded. The Bill did not appear at all events to attain the object of making the 1895 Act any more effective than was the case at the present time. Undoubtedly the Bill would prolong inquiries, but beyond that it would do nothing, because it was laid down in the 1895 Act, and still held good, that the verdict of the jury could not be referred to in any kind of way in the case of subsequent proceedings. He could not for the life of him understand why the Lord-Advocate should have sought to extend the scope of the inquiry, and yet not provide that the verdict should be referred to in case of further proceedings. It appeared to him that the right hon. Gentleman had made the proposal without fully considering the effect liable to be produced. It would have been more desirable if the right hon. Gentleman could have seen his way not to make it absolutely essential that in every case there should be a public inquiry of the kind suggested, but only in certain scheduled cases or in cases in which it might be held to be necessary by the Lord-Advocate to order a public inquiry, or where such inquiry was demanded by the relatives or immediate friends of the deceased. He would like very much that the right hon. Gentleman, if he proposed to extend the Act of 1895, should further improve the Bill by having some arrangement following upon those lines. That would greatly minimise the grave inconvenience to which jurymen were often exposed. Whilst there was no objection to sitting upon a jury in serious cases, people did object to being summoned to attend an inquiry where no inquiry was really necessary. There were other people to be considered under the Bill. First there was the procurator fiscal, and secondly the person against whom fault or negligence might be found. Then there was also the court itself. Was the procurator fiscal to act simply as a public official, laying the facts before the jury, and leaving the question of fault or negligence to be decided by the jury and sheriff, or was he to act in accordance with his own opinion and endeavour to obtain a verdict in accordance with that opinion? If this official was only supposed to act in this official capacity, who was entitled to ask for a verdict? The absence of a clear definition of the duty of the procurator fiscal was a great defect in this Bill. Then, again, there was not a single provision in the Bill to provide that notice should be given to any person who might be found, by a jury, to have been guilty of fault or negligence. A man might be found guilty of manslaughter or even of murder and yet might know nothing about the inquiry, nor would he be given any subsequent opportunity of clearing himself. Let the House not imagine that the Bill before them would affect employers to any great extent, because in cases of fatality, where fault or negligence had been proved, it had almost invariably been shown that such negligence or fault was on the part of the deceased or a fellow workman. Only in rare cases had it been proved that death was the result of faulty machinery. This side of the question called for very grave consideration. Then there was the question of the working capacity of the sheriff courts. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman realised that if these inquiries were largely extended very likely the ordinary sheriff courts in Scotland would not be able to deal with them. He found that the average number of inquiries during the last two or three years was in Aberdeen 35, in Edinburgh 55, in Glasgow 114, in Airdrie 42, and in Hamilton 74. These were the county courts in which under this new Bill the inquiries were more likely to be increased. The Lord Advocate had said that he had met with a sympathetic Chancellor of the Exchequer and a sympathetic Treasury in regard to the increase of the existing officials; but he would like to see the Treasury spending its money upon something more useful to Scotland than on an extension of the Act of 1895. He did not believe they could find a single procurator fiscal in Scotland who would not say that the Act of 1895 was a perfectly useless Act and ought to be repealed. [Cries of "Oh, oh."] Yes, that was just his point. No satisfactory Amendment could be made to it. It was an Act which ought to be repealed, and not, as was proposed by the present Bill, to be extended. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to consider whether he could not see his way to repeal the Act, or if he could not do so, at all events to give his serious consideration to the points he had raised. In regard to the last clause in the Bill, it was certainly advisable that the Lord Advocate should have some machinery for instituting inquiries. The present system of public inquiry after a serious accident was complicated, and the Lord-Advocate had always to charge someone with culpable homicide in order to obtain an investigation. He made his proposition not as a politician, but as Chairman of his county. He had to pass all the accounts of the inquiries under the Act of 1895, and his Committee had never yet passed them without a grumble. He begged to move.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said he desired very heartily to associate himself with what had fallen from his hon. friend the Member for Ayr Burghs. He had a very strong objection in principle to the Bill, and he expressed surprise that the Lord-Advocate had not given some further explanation of it, for the benefit of Members of the House who might not be conversant with the law and practice in Scotland. The Bill professed to alter a certain section of the Act of 1895, and proposed to extend the system of inquiry in the case of fatal accidents where the Lord-Advocate thought such extension was desirable. Sub-section 7 of Section 4 of the Fatal Accidents Inquiry (Scotland) Act of 1895 was by this Bill repealed, and in lieu thereof the second clause of this Bill said that the jury, after hearing the evidence, should return a verdict setting forth—

> "When and where the accident and the death or deaths to which the inquiry relates took place, the cause or causes of such accident or death, or deaths, the person or persons, if any, to whose fault or negligence the accident is attributable, the precaution, if any, by which it might have been avoided, any defects in the system, or mode of working which contributed to the accident, and any other facts disclosed by the evidence which, in the opinion of the jury, are relevant to the inquiry."

That might or might not be the estimable object of the inquiry, but he objected altogether to the means by which the right hon. Gentleman was seeking to arrive at it. In the first place, he deplored very deeply that in the present Bill there was no provision whatever that notice should be given to the persons who might be most intimately concerned in the matter. Under the Act of 1895 it was provided that intimation of the inquiry must be given to the wife, husband, family, the nearest known relative, and the employer. As his right hon. friend knew, there were many cases—he had almost said the majority of cases—where it was not the wife, or family, or even the employer who was most interested, but the man with whom the fault was to be found; it might be a man in the same employment, and it was a great blot upon the present Bill that it did not provide that notice should be given to the man against whom fault or negligence might be found. Even worse than that, a man might go to an inquiry, offer himself as a witness, give his evidence, and then suddenly find that he was the man against whom the inquiry was directed, and against whom a verdict of negligence or fault was found; and that by his evidence he had incriminated himself. That was contrary to the whole spirit of the constitution, and so long as there was the possibility of such a thing happening, he had the strongest objection to any system which allowed it. He did not say that such a thing was probable, but it was possible. It was intolerable that such a contravention of the whole practice and spirit of the constitution should be put down in black and white as in the Bill now before the House. It might be said that this was a Bill to extend to Scotland a system of coroner's inquests; but it was not. If it had been, his chief objection might possibly have been removed. When a verdict of fault or negligence was found at a coroner's inquest, that verdict, as recorded by the coroner, operated as a warrant for the apprehension and trial of a man; but one of the greatest defects of this Bill was that the inquiry effected or warranted nothing. It must be remembered that every sudden death in Scotland was already the object of private inquiry by the procurator-fiscal, who reported the evidence to Crown Counsel. Then the Crown Counsel made up his mind as to whether it was desirable to have further inquiry made, or whether anyone should be prosecuted in relation to the death. The inquiry provided for in this Bill was in no way a substitute for the inquiry made by the procurator fiscal. The Bill sought to institute a complete change in the relation of the procurator fiscal to the judicial procedure in Scotland. The Bill would place a most intolerable burden on the procurators fiscal. Its machinery would be cumbersome, extremely expensive, and mean the doubling of the staffs in the Sheriff Courts of Scotland. The right hon. the Lord Advocate knew that representations had been made by the sheriffs as to the crowded state of business in their courts, and he must be aware that that business would be much further extended if this Bill passed. He would like to know, if a procurator-fiscal made up his mind to take proceedings against an individual for fault or negligence, and those proceedings failed, who was to be responsible for the expense? Supposing a fellow workman of the deceased thought it possible that in the inquiry he might be accused of neglect or fault, and that a verdict might be found against him. He would have to appear at the inquiry, and to instruct counsel to represent him. He might have further to incur heavy expense in travelling a long distance; but, if fault was not found against him on whom was he to fall back to recover all these expenses? Although the right hon. Gentleman might have imagined that he had framed this Bill in the interests of all classes, he contended that it would inflict an intolerable hardship upon poor men up and down Scotland. Unless on these points the Bill was amended he should very strongly object to it. Indeed, he thought the right hon. Gentleman would be well advised to withdraw it altogether, and perhaps at some future time he would be able to re-cast it, and re-introduce it in a better form. He seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Younger.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

THE LORD - ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs) said he was surprised at the kind of opposition to this Bill, and described most of the objections brought against it as mere Committee points of detail. So far back as 1897 the idea became prevalent that much was being done in Scotland under the system of private inquiry, which had two defects. In the first place, it was absolutely secret; and in the second place, the consequence of absolute secrecy was that sometimes there arose such anxiety and uneasiness in the public mind, and a desire for publicity, that it was necessary to go through the hateful process of putting a man upon his trial as a criminal, not because he was believed to be a criminal, but because it was the only way to satisfy the minds of the community. That was altogether inconsistent with the ideas of justice. The hon. Member who moved this Amendment had struck exactly the line of cleavage in regard to this matter, which was whether the Act of 1895 should be gone back upon in the sense of making these people assist in a secret inquiry, or, on the other hand, whether the Act of 1895—which had never been gone back upon during the term of office of the Unionist Government—should be transmuted now, and made into a real active and helpful mode of inquiry. He would not be a party to reverting to the system of absolute secret inquiry in Scotland. On the other hand, he wished the House to realise that substantially the first part of this Bill was an Amendment of Sub-section 7 of Section 4 of the Act of 1895. That Act gave juries the power to return a verdict stating when and where the accident and death or deaths took place, and the cause or causes of such death or deaths. Nevertheless, it had been held by the sheriffs presiding over these trials that the jury were precluded from giving anything except a "formal verdict." A formal verdict was not what Scotland wanted. It was proposed to change the formal verdict into a verdict setting forth, in addition to the cause or causes of death—

"The person or persons, if any, to whose fault or negligence the accident is attributable, the precautions, if any, by which it might have been avoided, any defects in the system or mode of working which contributed to the accident, and any other facts disclosed by the evidence which, in the opinion of the jury, are relevant to the inquiry."

Whatever judicial system existed, he could hardly conceive that it would be possible for a jury to be deprived of the right to return a full, real, and helpful verdict. Was not that better than reverting to the dark, secret system of inquiry? The other part of the Bill had reference to the occurrence of sudden and suspicious deaths not in industrial occupations. Such deaths could occur in Scotland without any inquiry following which the public knew anything about. He esteemed far more highly than he could describe the value of the system of inquiry by Crown counsel which had prevailed in Scotland for many years, and been a great advantage in the administration of the criminal law. There was a case in Glasgow where a number of persons in a lodging house were burnt to death, and the whole place was agitated and concerned as to how it could have happened. But, notwithstanding this, no public inquiry was made by any public authority, and the City of Glasgow, in order to satisfy the public mind upon the matter, instituted a public inquiry for itself. Could any testimony be more eloquent as showing the need for a general system under which all matters of that kind might be brought under the cognisance of the Crown by the machinery of this Bill? The whole of the facts relating to fatal accidents ought to be brought before the public in some way, and consequently he had introduced Section 3 of the Bill, which, he was glad to say, had the approval of the mover of the rejection of this Bill.

*MR. YOUNGER: The qualified approval.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said he had introduced this clause in order to give power to the Lord-Advocate in case of suspicious deaths to order a public inquiry to satisfy the public mind. The rest of the points which had been raised during the discussion appeared to him to be purely matters for the Committee stage.

*MR. YOUNGER said that what he objected to was that the Bill did not provide for giving notice to the man who might be found guilty.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said he considered that was a point for the Committee stage. In the Act of 1895 it was provided that amongst the list of persons who could assist were not only the employer but the persons engaged along with the deceased and any other person whom the sheriff might consider had a legitimate interest in the inquiry. The Lord-Advocate was empowered to order public inquiries in order to satisfy the public mind. In conclusion, he said the whole question was whether they should revert to secrecy or make the existing system helpful and a reality.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs) said the Bill was necessary to carry out the intention of the Act of 1895, which had been frustrated by the decision of the sheriffs that they would not allow a jury to state the cause or the causes of death in fatal accidents. The result had been that that Act had become a dead letter. He had had the good or bad fortune to be a juryman upon some of these inquiries. He did not like to act as a juryman at any time, but they were obliged to take their turn. The present law was futile. If a man was called upon a jury and hanged a man there was a certain satisfaction in it; there was much greater satisfaction if he could pronounce an acquittal; but if a juror was summoned and only allowed to say that a man had died through death, then he felt that his time had been absolutely wasted, and that was a position in which he had been more than once. It was because he was aware of the futility of the present law that he supported the Second Reading of this Bill. There would be some satisfaction about the matter if juries were able to say that the accident was caused and the man lost his life because there was want of supervision. Then they would feel that they had been giving their time for a useful purpose and that it might have the effect of saving the lives of other men in the future. He appreciated very much Clause 3, which allowed the Lord-Advocate to institute a public inquiry if he thought that one should be held in the public interest. They did not want a coroner's inquest in every case, and he regretted what had occurred in connection with coroner's inquests in England, but they required this power to hold an inquiry. They were quite willing to trust their law officers with this additional power, knowing that they would only use it in the public interest.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said that all these questions were carefully considered when the Act now in force was discussed, and that Act was referred to a Scottish Committee, and he thought it was about the only Bill that ever came before a Scottish Committee. The then law officers of the Crown, including the late Lord Kinross, were not very desirous of making any change in the law of Scotland in regard to public inquiries, as it was felt that the secret inquiries worked better. On the other hand, there were a good many objections to secret inquiries, because there were a large number of cases where irregularities had occurred. He thought the second section of the Bill now before the House might be amended in some respects, but the third clause he believed to be absolutely necessary. He would not go into some of the notorious cases which had occurred, but there was one case where a man coming out of a house, was knocked on the head and died a week afterwards. He (the hon. Member) saw the widow of this man at the funeral and he ascertained that the death of that man was certified as having occurred through influenza, when as a matter of fact he died from a fracture of the skull. Lord Kinross subsequently held an inquiry, and in that case at any rate there was a miscarriage of justice. Had it not been for the fact that he went to see the widow, nothing would have been heard of the circumstances under which the man met his death. None of them were very desirous of changing the law on this subject, but he conceived it would be a great injury to the interests of justice in Scotland if the effects of legislation already passed were lost, and he most heartily supported the Bill now before the House.

*MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire) said that he rose to confirm the Lord-Advocate's reference to the sad fatality which had recently occurred in his constituency. The profoundest uneasiness was felt as to the secrecy of the inquiry which followed, and he had been asked to impress on the law officers of the Crown the necessity for the legislation now proposed. The townfolk of Grangemouth were indgnant at the hole-and-corner way in which the case had been dealt with. During a juvenile theatrical performance a young man by accident shot a little girl on the stage, in consequence of ball ammunition having been substituted for blank ammunition. It was a very extraordinary affair, and at the time it was attended with a certain amount of suspicion, although it was afterwards proved to be an accident. Nevertheless, there was a feeling amongst the public, who were only acquainted with half the facts, that there ought to have been a public inquiry to establish clearly how it was that there had been a change from blank to ball ammunition. Cases of this kind showed the need of a reform in procedure. He heartily supported the Second Reading of the Bill.

*MR. MORTON (Sutherland) said the Act of 1895 was brought in by the then Government after he had moved the reduction of somebody's salary. He was induced to ask the Government to bring in that Act by the miners of Midlothian, who wanted a full and public inquiry with a verdict as given by coroners' juries in England. The moment he got back to the House he saw the Lord-Advocate and wrote to the Secretary for Scotland, and they immediately said they would proceed with this Bill to make the Act of 1895 effective. What working-men wanted after a fatal accident was an honest and immediate inquiry as to why the accident had occurred and who was to blame for it, in order that if there was any blame proceedings might be taken against the right party. Another object of such inquiries was to prevent similar accidents in the future. Since the passing of the Act of 1895 he had heard no complaints of accidents in Midlothian mines. The question of notice was a matter to be dealt with in Committee, and he quite agreed that proper notice should be given to all the parties concerned. He hoped that as this was not a Party matter the House would pass the Second Reading of the Bill, and that in Scotland they would before long have an effective Act which the sheriffs could not make a sham. He desired cordially to thank the Secretary for Scotland and the Lord-Advocate for so readily agreeing to amend the Act of 1895.

*MR. HUDSON (Newcastle-on-Tyne) said he did not think anyone would have greater pleasure in welcoming this Bill than the railway men of Scotland. He did not profess to understand Scotch law, but during his experience as president of one of the large national organisations of workmen, and for a number of years he had had reports through his hands from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and the inconsistencies in them were even to the mind of a layman most apparent. He hailed this Bill with the greatest possible pleasure, and especially that portion of it which gave an extended power to the sheriff to call parties to the inquiry and to examine witnesses. If the Lord-Advocate could extend that provision a little he would greatly benefit railway men. Their difficulty was to get into the inquiry, and the Bill left that entirely discretionary. With the best and most experienced coroners they had no difficulty whatever. Their difficulty occurred with the coroners in country districts with their fossilised ideas. They should have the right of sending to the Court workmen's representatives who had technical knowledge of the industry and of the conditions under which the man worked who had suffered the fatal accident. What they desired more than anything else was prevention. They wanted to have administered Acts which were already on the statute book either with regard to the hours worked or the Prevention of Accidents Act of 1900. By bringing out those matters at the inquiry—and they could only be brought out by technical persons—they would confer great benefit upon the class of railway men for whom he spoke. He heartily supported the measure on behalf of Scottish railway men, and he hoped the Bill would go through without a division.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 250; Noes, 25. (Division List No. 123).

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somer't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hon.SydneyChas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Evans, Samuel T.
Farrell, James Patrick
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford,S.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazelton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S,)
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohn H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lewis, John Herbert
Liddell, Henry
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Marnham, F. J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Hortaio
Napier, T. B.

Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thorne, William
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn)
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Balcarres, Lord
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F.
Faber, George Denison (York)
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hills, J. W.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Nield, Herbert
Percy, Earl
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Mitchell-Thomson and Mr. Meysey-Thompson.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, &c.

STATUTE LAW REVISION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said he desired to know the effect of the words in line 12 upon the various provisions in the schedule. He was afraid that whilst certain advantages which were enjoyed under the law as it now stood might be taken away, the liabilities would remain, and it was obvious that it would be very unfair to take away an advantage and leave the liability.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said that the language adopted in the Bill was not his own, nor by any means that of his recent predecessors. It was the language of previous generations. The necessity for a Statute Revision Bill had been the subject of inquiry by the late Lord Westbury and by the late Lord Cairns, and the present Bill, as drawn, was necessary if they were not to defeat the whole object of statute law revision.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Other clauses agreed to.

Schedule :—

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON moved an Amendment standing in the name of Viscount Helmsley to leave out the words "of ridaris and gangaris throu the cuntre." The noble Lord had pointed out to him that these words were of very great importance, and he believed they had some reference to riders and gangers on the King's highway. He understood it was a law of great importance in former times, and he did not see why it should be done away with. There was nothing to show why it would not be of great importance now. He should be glad if those responsible for the Bill would give him a satisfactory explanation why it was proposed to repeal this law.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 15, to leave out the words 'of ridaris and gangaris throu the cuntre.'"—(*Mr. Meysey-Thompson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

MR. THOMAS SHAW said he thought it would please the humour of the House if he read the statute. The Scottish Parliament was a first-rate Parliament, and brought within the compass of two or three lines all that they wanted to do. This was an instance, of which there were not a few in the list, of a great suspicion of people who came from the south of the Tweed. These people came to the north with far more attendants than was healthy, and that was a suspicious circumstance. Therefore, these words occurred in the preamble of the Act—

"Na man suld travell with maa men, nor he may susteine."

"Item. It is statute that na man of what estate, degree or condition he be of, rydand or gangand in the Countrie, lead nor have maa persons with him, nor may suffice him, nor till his estaite, and for quhom he will make readie payment; and gif onie complaint be of sik ryders or gangers, the King commandis his officiares of the land, that quhair they happen to be, till arriest them, and put them under sicker burrowes, quhill the King be certified thereof, and send his will what sal be done of sic trespassourers."

MR MEYSEY-THOMPSON: On a point of order, may I ask for a translation?

MR. THOMAS SHAW said it meant that no gentleman rider visiting Scotland should have more servants than could be accounted for on peaceable principles. What happened if the hon. Gentleman or his noble ancestors came north in those suspicious circumstances was that the King commanded his officers of the land where they happened to be to arrest them, and to put them in absolute security while the King sent his will what should be done with such trespassers. Would the hon. Gentleman not be easier in his mind if that were repealed?

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON begged leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON moved to leave out the words "of sornaris." As he was entirely ignorant of the meaning of the word "sornaris" he would ask the right hon. Gentleman for information. He was delighted to hear during the discussion of the Soldiers' and Sailors' False Characters Bill that knowledge was necessary to constitute an offence. He thought in this case he should not very easily be guilty of an offence, because he had absolutely no knowledge of it. He did not even know how the word was pronounced. The Secretary of State for War with charming candour had already let them into some of the secrets of the present Government. In the event of one Bill not being satisfactory to the House the right hon. Gentleman produced another from his pocket and said that the first was not the one he meant to read. He wanted to know whether the Government had taken a tip from the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War.

THE CHAIRMAN asked if the hon. Gentleman would be good enough to return to the subject of his Amendment.

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON said he was going to say that in this case two Bills were necessary, one in Scottish and the other in English. He would like to ask whether "sornaris" was a crime, a disease, or a vegetable. If it were a crime or a disease it was very desirable that it should cease. But was it something good to eat, because, if so, had the right hon. Gentleman taken proper steps to bring it up-to-date and have the seeds distributed? Until he had a satisfactory answer from the right hon. Gentleman he must persist in his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 19, to leave out the words 'of sornaris.'"—(*Mr. Meysey-Thompson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

Mr. THOMAS SHAW said the word was an old Scottish word. His hon. friend need not be alarmed; it was not exactly a crime or a disease. The modern equivalent was English slang, although it sounded Scotch. The slang English equivalent would be "sponger," and the statute in question dealt with spongers. He was sorry to say they nearly always proceeded from the south of the Tweed. When they came into Scotland they had what was popularly known as a high time. Speaking seriously, the sooner the like of that was abolished from the statute the better. The matter was raised in 1868 by Mr. George Howell, who pleaded that the laws of the county should be reduced to something like reasonable bulk by all obsolete matter being deleted. Since the Act of Union the laws of England up to the time of the Union had been revised under statutes similar to the present and the whole of the laws of the United Kingdom up to a few years ago had also been revised, but all the Scottish statutes prior to the Act of Union had been left out. They were extremely involved and were written in the most archaic language, and though they formed a picturesque record of the history of Scotland, as business men they ought not to deprive Scotland of the opportunity of having her laws put into one single small volume instead of ten large folios as as present. He was sure the House would sympathise with the desire of the Lord Chancellor in this as in other matters to have Scotland brought absolutely up-to-date. The Bill was the result of very anxious inquiry made by skilled men led by his respected friend Sheriff Æneas Mackay. Everything had been done in every item of the Bill to make it absolutely straight and clear. But if between now and the passage of the Bill through the other House any communication was made to him concerning it he would convey it to the Lord Chancellor and it would receive full investigation.

Sir E. CARSON fully agreed with everything the Lord Advocate had said. It was very desirable that this Bill should become law so that the statutes should be in a form which the people of Scotland could understand. The laws of Ireland were now in one small volume, and it would be a great boon to Scotland to be placed in a similar position.

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON said, as one who had at any rate a nodding acquaintance with the laws of Scotland, he entirely agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that this schedule represented the careful labour of a large number of skilled investigators continued during a long period. He could quite understand the natural and perhaps pardonable curiosity of his hon. friend as to the archaic language in which the old laws were written, but he hoped he would agree to the Bill proceeding.

Mr. MEYSEY-THOMPSON desired to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) moved that the words, "Of slauchter of salmonde in tyme forbodyne be the law" be omitted from the schedule. His object was to ascertain from the right hon. Gentleman whether the laws which were somewhat complicated regarding salmon fishing in Scotland would be in any way affected by the repeal of the words he had quoted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 28, to leave out the words 'of slauchter of salmonde in tyme forbodyne be the law.' "—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

MR. THOMAS SHAW said he had made certain inquiries in respect of this matter, and found that the statutes affecting salmon fisheries had been handled with extreme care by the skilled advisers of this Bill. But he would undertake to convey the views of the right hon. Gentleman to the Lord Chancellor, because it was quite possible that renewed investigation might suggest one or two further improvements. He could assure the hon. Gentleman, however, that to the best of his knowledge what had been done was best.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said, in view of the explanation, he begged to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdraw.

MR. CLAUDE HAY moved to omit the words, "Of the custum of gold and silver had oute of the realme." He again ventured to ask a question of the right hon. Gentleman. It might be that the repeal of this enactment might give an advantage to one country over the other.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 40, to leave out the words 'of the custum of gold and silver had oute of the realme.' "—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

MR. THOMAS SHAW said that through all the pre-Union period there was a large mass of legislation of a fiercely protective character.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: You will not repeal that?

MR. THOMAS SHAW said he gathered that Scotland in those times was determined to be protected against England. When Scotland had to give a race of kings and rebuild the English throne with the Scottish dynasty, and when in other ways Scotland was finding it to be of some advantage to have close relations with England, there was a union of Parliaments in 1707. It was another illustration of how carefully the whole matter had been gone into. Might he make an appeal to hon. Gentlemen? He could assure them that in no sense of the word was there the slightest Party political character in this Bill. He was doing his official duty to the best of his power as successor to those holding his high office, and also carrying out the behests of the most skilled lawyers of this and the last generation. He thought he had shown no unwillingness to give such explanations as would satisfy the House, and he trusted hon. Members would now pass the Bill.

MR. CLAUDE HAY asked to be allowed to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON moved the Amendment standing in the name of Viscount Helmsley to leave out "of strangeris that sellis merchandise in the realme and takis mone tharfor."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 42, to leave out the words 'of strangeris that sellis merchandise in the realme and takis mone tharfor.' "—(*Mr. Meysey-Thompson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

MR. THOMAS SHAW said this was another illustration of what he had been saying in answer to previous speakers. It was a case of the repeal of laws with regard to the selling of goods, the taking of money, and the custom of money. The whole repeal arose out of the great historical fact of the Union of the two Kingdoms. That was the whole explanation.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said they all accepted the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that there was no Party motive behind this Bill. At the same time he thought there were a large number of points which might be more clearly expressed.

SIR E. CARSON appealed to the hon. Gentleman to allow the Bill to pass. So far as he could see the Bill was most carefully drawn.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said he would not pursue the subject after the assurances of his hon. and learned friend and the Lord Advocate.

MR. CLAUDE HAY asked the Lord Advocate if he would give an undertaking that the remaining stages of the Bill in this House would not be taken for at least a week, so that hon. Members might have time to examine the Bill.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said he would give the assurance.

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time upon Friday next.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL.

Order for the House to be put in Committee, read.

Objection was taken by Mr. HARWOOD (Bolton).

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) appealed to the hon. Gentleman to withdraw his objection. The Secretary of State for the Home Department and, in fact, the whole House were willing that the Bill should be considered. He would undertake to meet his hon. friend in every possible way.

MR. HARWOOD said, whilst he did not in the least object to his hon. friend's aim, and had the greatest possible sympathy with it, he distinctly objected to the method by which it was sought to be carried out. This was the fourth Bill dealing with the subject, and it was the most drastic of any proposed in this House, and he resisted it on that ground.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORATE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Tuesday next.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at five minutes after
Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 18*th June*, 1906.

The Lord Thring took the Oath.

Charles Baron Ritchie of Dundee was (in the usual manner) introduced by virtue of a patent dated December 22nd, 1905, his father, the first Baron, who was created by such patent, never having taken his seat.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Baker Street and Waterloo Railway; Lancashire Electric Power; St. Pancras Electricity; Tottenham and Edmonton Gas; Metropolitan District Railway; Kettering Water; Middlesex County Council (General Powers); North-west London Railway; Bristol Corporation.

And also the certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with: Metropolitan Water Board; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements); London County Council (General Powers).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; Metropolitan Water Board Bill. Examiner's certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Friday next.

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill; Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill. Read 2^a (according to order).

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill. A petition of Messrs. Dyson and Company, of 9, Great George Street, Westminster, Parliamentary agents, praying for leave to present a petition of the Metropolitan Water Board, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 93 for presenting such petition has expired. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table, and Standing Order No. 93 to be considered to-morrow in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

London Squares and Enclosures Bill [H.L]. Report from the Committee of Selection, that the Lord Clinton be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bill in the place of the Lord Digby. Read, and agreed to.

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Hackney Electricity Bill. Brought from the Commons. Read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners.

Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills. Ordered, that Standing Orders No. 72 and 82 be suspended for the remainder of the session.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, &c.) Bill [H.L.]. Order of the day for the Third Reading read, and discharged.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools, of teachers in schools at Levenshulme; Bolton; Stretford (2) and Chequerbent. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of maintenance of existing religious teaching in Church of

England schools, of parents and guardians of children attending school at Rochdale; St. Mary's; Stretford; All Saints'; St. Brides; Roughtown; Levenshulme; Bolton, and St. John's. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.

Second Report from the Select Committee made, to be printed; and to be considered on Thursday next. (No. 125.)

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3638. Portugal (Madeira).

No. 3639. France (Brest).

No. 3640. Mexico.

No. 3641. China (Newchwang).

MISCELLANEOUS No. 1. (1906.)

Reports from His Majesty's representatives abroad respecting the remuneration of Members of Parliament in foreign States.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 AND 1888.

Special Report by the Board of Trade under Section 1 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1888.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill. Brought from the Commons and read 1^a, and to be printed.

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (Earl CARRINGTON): My Lords, I need not detain your Lordships for more than a minute or two in asking you to be good enough to accord a Second Reading to this Bill, the object of which is to consolidate and amend the Alkali, etc., Works Regulation Acts, 1881 and 1892. There is only one clause to which I think I ought to draw the attention of the House—namely, Clause 8. By this clause it is proposed to place smelting works in the same position as cement works and to render them liable to inspection by an inspector of the Local Government Board. Smelting works will not, however, come under the Schedules. If any noble Lord desires to put a question to me with regard to this Bill I shall be very glad to answer it to the best of my ability. I beg to move the Second Reading.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

LORD BELPER: My Lords, I do not rise for the purpose of opposing the Second Reading of this Bill, but I have just received a communication from a gentleman who is very much interested in smelting works, and he informs me that the proposal to include smelting works has been agreed to without any consultation with the manufacturers concerned. He asserts that this provision will be a most serious one for smelting works in this country. It will, he says, have a very deleterious effect upon them, and be likely to necessitate smelting being done abroad instead of in this country. I have had no time to examine the Bill, but I hope my correspondent is taking an exaggerated view of this provision. In the circumstances I trust that if the noble Earl presses the Second Reading to-day he will, before taking the Committee stage, allow ample time for communication with those interested in smelting works, so that they may have an opportunity, which they appear not to have had in the House of Commons, of stating their views.

EARL CARRINGTON: My Lords, I should like to state that the Bill as introduced this year did not refer to smelting works, but in Committee in the other House the Hon. Arthur Stanley moved their inclusion, and, so far as I know, no objection was raised. It will be observed that the clause in question does not schedule smelting works and thus make them subject to the restrictions imposed on works which are scheduled; it merely authorises inspection. I shall be only too pleased to meet the wishes of the noble

Lord with regard to the date at which the Committee stage is taken. In the circumstances perhaps your Lordship's will allow the Bill to be read a second time as it stands. Clause 8 could then be taken on its merits in Committee.

LORD BELPER: I have no objection to the Second Reading if ample time is allowed before the Committee stage is taken.

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

Order of the Day for Committee read.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The EARL of PORTSMOUTH): My Lords, perhaps I may be permitted to make a short explanation with regard to what happened on Thursday last. Viscount Knutsford objected to the Amendments which I had placed on the Paper, but my noble friend for once failed in his legal acumen and discovered what has since been proved to be a mare's nest. None of us on this side of the House could make out the exact point that my noble friend was raising. The Amendments have for their object the correction of an error which was overlooked in the House of Commons, and if my noble friend had afforded me an opportunity of going over the Amendments with him I think he would have seen that they were in order. In the circumstances I had no alternative but to postpone the Amendments until to-day, and I took that course in case there had been any inaccuracy in the drafting. But immediately after the House rose on Thursday I sent to my noble friend the Bill with the changes effected by the Amendments marked in ink. This, as I anticipated, quite cleared up the error under which my noble friend was labouring, and I received from him on Saturday morning a note to the effect that he was quite satisfied and assented to the insertion of the Amendments.

House again in Committee (according to order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Amendments moved—

In page 1, line 22, after the word "Kingdom" to insert the words "or of British Protectorates;" in lines 26 and 27, to leave out the words "the expression 'His Majesty's Dominions outside the United Kingdom' shall include British Protectorates"; in line 28, to leave out the words "self-governing colony" and to insert the words "colony possessing responsible government"; and in page 2, line 2, to leave out the words "powers of self-government" and to insert the words "responsible government."—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received to-morrow; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 127.)

SEAMEN'S AND SOLDIERS' FALSE CHARACTERS BILL.

Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

JUVENILE SMOKING.

Moved, That the Select Committee appointed to consider the Juvenile Smoking Bill [H.L.] be empowered to consider the question of juvenile smoking generally, and its effect on the physical condition of children; and to report whether any and, if so, what, alterations in the law are desirable or practicable with a view to stopping the sale of tobacco and cigarettes to children below a certain age (The Lord Denman); agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

METROPOLITAN POLICE (COMMISSION) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

House adjourned at a quarter before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 18th June, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Hackney Electricity Bill. As amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed.

Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]. [Not amended]; considered; to be read the third time.

Poole Corporation Water Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Great North of Scotland Railway Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment.

Wireless Telegraphy Bill; Southampton Gas Bill, with an Amendment.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to — Holyhead Water Bill [Lords]; Mersey Railway Bill [Lords]; North Sussex Gas and Water Bill [Lords]; Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Education under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903, to enable the Councils of the Administrative Counties of Devon and the West Riding of Yorkshire to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts." [Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, &c.) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903, to enable the London County Council to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts." [Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the time for taking certain lands and for the construction of certain street works and a tramway authorised by The

Dover Corporation Act, 1901; to empower the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough of Dover to execute a further street work in connection with such works; and for other purposes." [Dover Corporation Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Folkestone Electricity Supply Company, Limited, with respect to the supply of electricity in the urban districts of Folkestone and Sandgate and the borough of Hythe; and for other purposes." [Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies, and the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Companies Managing Committee." [South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate and confer powers upon the Truro Gas Company." [Truro Gas Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Company to make an entrance channel and lock entrance into their existing South Dock; and to construct other works; and for other purposes." [Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Borough of Portsmouth Waterworks Company with respect to the raising of money; and for other purposes." [Portsmouth Water Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Kent Electric Power Company to construct a pier on the River Medway, and to extend their powers with respect to the supply of electricity; and for other purposes." [Kent Electric Power Bill [Lords.]

Dover Corporation Bill [Lords]; Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [Lords]; South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords]; Truro Gas Bill [Lords]; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [Lords]; Portsmouth Water Bill [Lords]; Kent Electric Power Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, &c.) Bill [Lords], Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 257.]

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 258.]

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; from Black Bourton; Codsall; Daventry (two); Halesworth and Chediston; Middleton Stoney; Mortimer West End; Nuttall; Souldern; and Winterton; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Bardwell; Congleton; Durham; Market Drayton; and Moreton Saye; to lie upon the Table.

PHARMACY BILL.

Petition from Nottingham, against; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; from Battersea; Hull (two); Mile End; Paisley (two); Warrington (two); Wednesbury; and West Salford; to lie upon the Table.

SHOPS BILL.

Petition from Westminster, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS).

Copy presented, of Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions for 1905. Volume II. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 AND 1888.

Copy presented, of Special Report by the Board of Trade, under Section (1) of The Electric Lighting Act, 1888 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3638 to 3641 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MISCELLANEOUS, No. 1, 1906).

Copies presented, of Reports from His Majesty's Representatives abroad respecting the Remuneration of Members of Parliament in Foreign States [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Inquiry into Charities (Administrative County of Devon). Further Return relative thereto [ordered 26th July, 1905; *Mr. Griffith Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 201.]

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Return ordered, "of Net Public Income and Net Public Expenditure under certain specified heads, as represented by Receipts into and Issues out of the Exchequer from 1891–2 to 1905–6, inclusive (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 239, of Session 1905)."—(*Sir Henry Fowler.*)

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH COLONIES).

Address for "Return showing what legislative measures have been taken in Foreign Countries and in British Colonies for the application of the principle of proportional representation to Public Elections, whether national, provincial, cantonal, municipal, or otherwise; and the results of the working of such measures during the periods in which they have been put into operation, with notices of any modifications or extensions which have been made therein."—(*Mr. J. M. Robertson.*)

TECHNICAL EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Return ordered, "showing the extent to which, and the manner in which, local authorities in Scotland have allocated and applied funds to the purposes of Technical Education during the year ending the 15th day of May, 1906, under the following Acts: The Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890; The Education and Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1892; The Technical Schools (Scotland) Act, 1887; The Technical Instruction Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1892; and Public Libraries Acts."—(*Mr. Sinclair.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Second-Term Rent for Mrs. Higginbotham, County Cavan.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Mrs. Higginbotham, who holds land in county Cavan under the Lord Chancellor, representing Martha Ann Fenner, a lunatic, has applied to have a second-term rent fixed, and that the application has been refused on the ground that, in law, there is no landlord; and, if so, on what ground, and for whom, rent is collected.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Land Commission inform me that, in the case referred to, the landlord is described in the form of application to fix a fair rent as "in *re* Martha Ann Fenner, a lunatic, by Thomas F. Barry, her committee." This application was served on the Land Commission on the 9th April, 1903, and it has been several times listed for hearing, and adjourned owing to the death of the landlord, because when the landlord dies after the service of an originating notice to fix a fair rent it is necessary to serve notice upon his successor. In September last the adjournment was made on the application of the tenant's solicitor, and in April, when the case was last adjourned, it did not appear that the successor to the landlord had been served with notice. It has been ascertained from the Lunacy Department of the Court of Chancery that the lunatic died on the 11th December, 1903, and that advertisements have been widely published with a view to discovering the heir-at-law of the deceased, but no claimant has as yet established his title. This is the real cause of the delay. In March, 1906, the Lord Chancellor, by order, transferred the matter to the court of the hon. Mr. Justice Barton to administer the estate, and an application is pending in that court for letters of administration. The receiver's final account in the lunacy matter has been passed, and it is presumed an application will be made to Mr. Justice Barton to appoint a receiver in the action. When a receiver has been appointed, if the application in the fair rent matter is served on that gentleman by the tenant's solicitor, the case can be proceeded with. Mrs. Higginbotham, who is the only tenant on the estate, has paid her rent up to the last gale day; and it is stated that she has made a claim to be the heir-at-law of the deceased lunatic. She will, it may be assumed, have notice of the proceedings in Mr. Justice Barton's court. Pending the discovery of the heir-at-law, it is necessary that rent should be collected for the benefit of whomsoever may ultimately be declared to be the heir.

Wages of Belfast Female Post Office Learners.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that the female learners at Belfast have not yet had the benefits of the wages adjustments he introduced applied to them; if he can say when they will be placed on the new scale; and if there is any hope of permanent places on the establishment being found for them at an early date.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I was not aware that there had been any further delay in applying the new scale; but I now find that the matter is not yet quite settled. But in any case the new scale, when applied, will date back to 1st January.

Pay of Clerks in the Dublin Post Office.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that women clerks in the Accountant's Office, Dublin, have their maximum salaries fixed at £10 per annum less than those of women clerks in the London office, who have been appointed from the same competitive examinations, while no such distinction is made in the case of men clerks employed in the same office, and whose conditions of appointment are identical; and that memorials from women clerks in Dublin praying for remuneration similar to that given to the women clerks in London have been refused on the grounds that the cost of living is less in Dublin than in London, and that it is the practice of the Post Office to pay less salary at provincial offices; and will he explain why these reasons do not apply in the case of men clerks; and whether, seeing that the former reason has been disproved before a Treasury Commission to reduce the salaries of other civil servants stationed in Dublin, and that the latter applies to the capital of Ireland, and that this reduction of maximum salary in the case of women clerks transferred from London to Dublin is a violation of the conditions of their appointment, he will consider the case of the women clerks in Dublin with a view to giving them remuneration equal to that given women clerks in London.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The scale of the Second Division clerks is fixed by the Treasury, as they belong to a class common to the whole of the Civil Service. The women clerks were all under the terms of their engagement appointed to London offices, and it was only at their own request that they were subsequently transferred to Dublin, with the full knowledge that the scale in Dublin was lower. Transfers to Dublin are much sought after by women clerks, and if any of those who have been transferred to Dublin would prefer to return to London, their application shall be considered and endeavour made to arrange a transfer.

Training of Naval Stokers.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can explain why stokers are being trained in the use of tools and machinery used in marine engineering, and who by this means obtain warrant rank, while men who are already trained can be obtained to do this class of work.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) I must refer the hon. Member to the Statement of Admiralty Policy [Cd. 2791] of last session, and the Reports on the New Scheme of Training [Cd. 2841] of this session.

Outfit Allowance for Naval Volunteer Officers.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the details of the outfit allowances to naval Volunteer officers have yet been settled; and, if so, when the regulations will be issued by which the allowances will be granted.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The financial questions involved have now been practically settled, and regulations on the subject are being prepared.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Bernard Martin.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that Bernard Martin, Clooncruffer, county Roscommon, a tenant of the Countess of Kingston, was evicted from his holding on the 14th May, 1892; that he has made repeated applications for reinstatement under the Land Act; that no notice of his applications has been taken, notwithstanding that portions of the estate have been sold, and that further sales are now pending; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have received from Bernard Martin an application for reinstatement in a holding on the estate of the Countess of Kingston. This holding is not included in the portion of the estate now being sold, but the Commissioners intend to make inquiries into Martin's case.

Case of John Cronin.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, before the lands of Ballyseedy, Tralee, now being sold by Colonel Nash, will be declared an estate, inquiry will be made into the case of John Cronin, evicted tenant on the estate.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have recently received from John Cronin an application for reinstatement, and will have his case inquired into in due course. No proceedings for the sale of the estate in question have yet come before the Commissioners.

Cases of Daniel Murphy and Michael O'Sullivan.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether an inspector from the Estates Commissioners has yet visited county Kerry to inquire into the cases of evicted tenants; whether he inquired into the cases of Daniel Murphy, Dromin, Killorglin, and Michael O'Sullivan, Doaghs; and whether application was made to Mr. Wharton, who now occupies Mr. Murphy's farm, to leave for some other place.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that one of their inspectors is at present inquiring into the cases of evicted tenants in county Kerry. The cases mentioned in the Question have been referred to him, but his report has not yet been received.

Ejectment Notices on the Ballycleary Estate, Queen's County.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that ejectment processes for one and a-half year's rent have been served upon the tenants on the Ballycleary

Estate of Mrs. Dunne, Aughavoe, Queen's County; and whether, seeing that the tenants have been in treaty for the purchase of their holdings, and that negotiations were broken off in consequence of the demand of twenty-four years purchase, with bonus, made by the landlord, the Estates Commissioners will approach Mrs. Dunne with a view to settlement, pending the hearing of the cases before the county court judge.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have no knowledge of the facts alleged in the Question, and that no proceedings for the sale of the estate mentioned are pending before them. The Commissioners, however, will approach the owner with a view to taking action as conciliators in accordance with the regulations of 13th February, 1906.

Sale of the Owen Wynne Estate.

MR. P. A. McHUGH (Leitrim, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the sale of the Owen Wynne Estate, including the townland of Cregg, near Sligo, has been completed; has the Land Commission paid over the purchase money to the landlord; is he aware that Mrs. Kate Banks, of Cregg, on this estate, paid interest to the Land Commission, on 16th November, 1905, at the rate of 3¼ per cent., and that on 22nd January, 1906, the Estates Commissioners informed her by letter that her holding was excluded from the estate for sale; will he explain whether it was by order of the Land Commission that Mr. George Hewson, of Dromahair, county Leitrim, agent for Mr. Owen Wynne, applied to Mrs. Banks, on the 2nd June instant, for payment of £5 8s. alleged to be due for interest pending sale; did Mrs. Banks, at the request of Mr. Hewson, sign an application for an advance of £332; was it found, on inspection, that her farm was not security for so large a price; will he see that Mrs. Banks' farm is included in the sale of the Owen Wynne Estate and sold to her at a fair price; and will he request the Estates Commissioners to stop further proceedings in connection with the sale of the Wynne Estate until the circumstances connected with Mrs. Banks' case are fully investigated.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that the sale of the estate in question was completed on 8th February, 1906, and the advances were made on that date. The funds have not yet been allocated. According to the purchase agreement signed by Mrs. Banks, the interest payable by her in lieu of rent was to be at the rate of 3¼ per cent., and this was duly collected by the Land Commission up to 1st November, 1905. On 22nd January, 1906, the Estates Commissioners informed Mrs. Banks that her holding was excluded from the estate for sale, and consequently the Land Commission ceased to collect interest as from 1st November, 1905, and the tenant became liable for rent or interest to the vendor. The Commissioners, however, have no information as to the amount demanded by Mr. Hewson, the agent. The Commissioners are not aware at whose instance Mrs. Banks signed the agreement for purchase. It was ascertained upon inspection that the holding would not afford security for the advance of £332 applied for, and the Commissioners therefore declined to sanction the advance. The agent for the vendor has undertaken to include Mrs. Banks' holding in the next estate of this vendor for sale, and when this estate comes before the Commissioners they will see that the undertaking is fully carried into effect.

Second-Term Judicial Rents.

MR. FLYNN (Cork County, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state on what principle the Assistant Land Commissioners are now proceeding, in connection with the fixing of rents for the second judicial term, in respect to improvements made on the land by the tenants; whether they are still instructed to pay due regard to the section of the Act of 1881 which provides that rent shall not be chargeable in respect to improvements made by the tenant or his predecessor in title; has his attention been called to the case of Mr. Patrick Lynch, Curragh Kilbrin, on the estate of Dr. Barry, of Kanturk, recently heard, in which Mr. Corliss Bolster, ex-Land Commissioner, valued at £66 10s., whereas Mr. Commissioner Donavan valued at £84, being a reduction of only

£4 a year on the first judicial rent fixed seventeen years ago; and whether, in view of the complaints by improving tenants of the action of the Assistant Commissioners, steps will be taken by legislation or otherwise to strengthen and make clear Section 8 of the Act of 1881.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Land Commission that in dealing with the question of improvements when fixing judicial rents the Sub-Commissioners are governed by the Land Law Act of 1881, and subsequent Acts, the rules prescribed under those Acts, and the numerous judicial decisions interpreting the law as to the fixing of fair rents. I have no information as to the particular case referred to, except that an appeal from the order of the Sub-Commission is pending in the case.

Irish Judicial Rents.

MR. LUNDON (Armagh, Mid): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that at the sitting of the Sub-Land Commissioners for the fixing of fair rents, held in the town of Tipperary, in the early days of May, a case as between Mr. Hefferman Considine, landlord, and Michael M'Grath, tenant, on the lands of Tirmanagh Pallasgrean, county Limerick, was gone into, that the farm, consisting of forty-four Irish, acres has been for the past fifteen years, first-term, held under judicial lease at a yearly rent of £86 10s., although a large portion of it is of inferior quality; and has his attention been called to the statement of a herdsman of Mr. Considine on the occasion that dairy cows are now let for the season at £12 10s. per cow, although the figure all around is £9 per cow; and can he say whether the Commissioners have as yet inspected the farm or have they given their decision as to the fair rent.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have referred this Question to the Land Commission, who inform me that the case referred to is one in which an application was made to have a judicial rent fixed by the Court; and they do not consider it desirable to discuss the details of such cases, which are the subject of judicial decisions.

Refusal of Local Government Board to Sanction Appointment of Mr. Flanagan as Engineer and Architect to the Corofin District Council.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board have refused to sanction the appointment of Mr. Flanagan as engineer and architect to the Corofin District Council; and, if so, if he will state the reason for this action.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Local Government Board have been unable to sanction the appointment of Mr. Flanagan as engineer and architect to the Corofin Board of Guardians, upon the ground that he has not been shown to be qualified for the position. Mr. Flanagan appears to have had experience as an overseer of roads, but no evidence is forthcoming to show that he possesses any qualifications in the matter of land surveying, mapping, and building works. Mr. Flanagan's appointment as engineer to the district council has not yet been reported to the Local Government Board. In view of the expected building of a large number of new cottages under the Labourers Bill, when it passes into law, it becomes specially important to secure that the architects of local bodies shall prove that they possess technical skill and experience.

Officers of Health in Rural Districts and Sanitation of National Schools.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any complaints have been received in regard to the manner in which officers of health in rural districts discharge their duties in connection with sanitation of the out offices attached to national schools and the premises generally.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Local Government Board have not received any complaint that there has been failure of duty on the part of medical officers of health generally in regard to the sanitary arrangements of national schools. It is to be remembered that these buildings are periodically inspected by the inspectors of national schools, whose reports are communicated to the managers of the schools.

Protection from Contagious Diseases in Irish National Schools.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if any, and what, means are at present in force to prevent children suffering from contagious diseases attending national schools in the ordinary way.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any provision is made for the systematic medical inspection of pupils attending national schools in Ireland with respect to defective sight, hearing, or with regard to skin diseases; and, if not, will he direct the attention of the Commissioners to the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that they direct the exhibition in every national school of a printed notice calling attention to the penalties for sending children to school who have been suffering from infectious disorders. The Commissioners have also recently sanctioned the exhibition in every national school of a poster calling attention to the dangers of consumption and the measures to be adopted to prevent the spread of the disease; and in the new edition of "Notes for Teachers," which the Commissioners are about to issue, a special chapter is devoted to school hygiene, and teachers are instructed as to the general signs of infectious diseases. Managers and teachers are empowered to exclude from national schools children suffering from infectious diseases. The Answer to the hon. Member's second Question is in the negative. The matter is already within the knowledge and consideration of the Commissioners.

Salaries of Irish National School Teachers.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is proposed to give extra salary to graduates of Universities who are teachers in Irish national schools; and whether, seeing that such a change would help to raise the standard of education to the benefit of the Irish child, steps will be taken to make provision in the next Estimates for such a change.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the negative. The adoption of this proposal would involve very considerable expense, and it would be a question whether any addition to the funds available for primary education could not be better expended in some other way.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Mrs. Catherine O'Connor.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the inspector from the Estates Commissioners notified Mrs. Catherine O'Connor, who claims to be an evicted tenant on the Morrogh Bernard Estate, county Kerry, that he would inspect her evicted farm on the 5th April, 1906, and that on that date the inspector refused to inquire into the case on the grounds that he was prevented by the estate agent from doing so; and whether the Estates Commissioners will refuse to sanction a sale of any portion of this estate until the claims of all the evicted tenants on it are fully and satisfactorily dealt with.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that it is the fact that the agent of the estate in question objected to the inspection of the holdings of evicted tenants who had not signed agreements for purchase. The Commissioners, however, intend to have further inquiries made into the cases of these evicted tenants.

Untenanted Farms on the Clanricarde Estate.

COLONEL McCALMONT (Antrim, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that Lord Clanricarde's agent has made a report to the Government on the condition of Lord Clanricarde's estate in the county Galway, he will state how many farms on this estate are untenanted.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) No such report has been received by the Government from Lord Clanricarde's agent. The official information upon the subject of the Question, which is contained in a Return (No. 173) presented to Parliament in 1903, shows that out of 254 evicted farms on the estate all except twenty-eight were in the occupation of tenants. I have no reason to believe that the circumstances have materially changed since then.

Army Pension for Patrick Fox.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will cause inquiry to be made into the case of Patrick Fox, now of Arden Flash, county Fermanagh, who served nineteen and a half years in the Army, first in the 5th Battalion Inniskilling Fusiliers and then in the 2nd Battalion of the same regiment (regimental number 443), and was on the 12th September, 1883, transferred to the First Class Army Reserve at Omagh with a good conduct certificate, and was discharged from the Army Reserve on 8th October, 1891, with good conduct certificate, but without a pension, which he has since been trying to get; will he say if it is in accordance with the Army Regulations that a man who serves so long, and leaves with good conduct certificates, should not be entitled to a pension; and, if so, will he recommend a change in the orders.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This man was discharged on the 8th October, 1887, after twelve years service, on the termination of his first period of limited engagement, and subsequently served four years in Section D Army Reserve. He had previously served for two years 176 days in the Donegal Militia. His total service with the colours was seven years eleven months, and he was not engaged in any campaign during this period. His service does not therefore entitle him to any pension. There is no trace of any application for pension from this man.

American Firms and Army Meat Contracts.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can ascertain from the Army Council what American firm has obtained the contract for the supply of fresh beef to the troops stationed in the three Kingdoms; and whether he can state if any canned provisions are used, and what ratio of frozen mutton is allowed.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The Morris Meat Company, an American firm long established on the London meat market, holds contracts for the supply of ration meat at three military stations in the United Kingdom. These contracts do not include the supply of canned provisions, but occasionally preserved meat is issued from the Army reserves, in order to insure a turn over of the war stock. The proportion of frozen mutton allowed does not exceed two-sevenths.

Rifle Range for Welshpool.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware of the need which exists for establishing a rifle range at Welshpool, an important depot of Auxiliary Forces; and whether he will take action in order to the providing of such range at the earliest possible date.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The establishment of a rifle range at Welshpool depends upon the provision of suitable manœurving areas in connection with it. These matters are now engaging the attention of the General Officer Commanding in Chief, Western Command. It will not have escaped the observation of my hon. friend that the latter part of his Question involves financial consideration.

Religious Services in the Theatre at Malta.

MR. ESSEX (Gloucestershire, Cirencester): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will lay upon the Table of the House the correspondence between the Governor of Malta and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Malta, relative to the Protestant religious services in the theatre at Valetta, which services were afterwards disallowed by the withdrawal by the Governor of the consent to the use of the theatre for such services, which he had already granted.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I will lay the correspondence upon the Table of the House.

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, having regard to his statement that there are grave objections to the procedure which was followed in regard to the Ceylon Pearl Fisheries Concession, and to his further statement that the results have not been at all satisfactory, the Government will consider the advisability in the public interest of reopening the whole matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) No, Sir; the transaction must be regarded as complete.

Trustee Securities.

MR. J. WILLIAMS BENN (Devonport): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware of the effect upon municipalities of the provisions of the Trustee Act of 1893, limiting the investments of trustees to nominal or inscribed stock and excluding corporation mortgages as a trustee security: and whether, seeing that the security in all cases of mortgage is the rates, and that many corporations, including Devonport, have by local Acts power to mortgage all their revenues in addition to the rates, thus making the security identical with that of stock, in view of the practice which obtains in Scotland, he will take steps to legalise as trustee securities corporation mortgages.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am aware of the desire of local authorities that the power of trustees to invest in their securities should be extended in the direction suggested; but the determination of the question as to the securities in which trustees should be authorised to invest is not a matter within the jurisdiction of the Local Government Board. It is one rather for the Lord Chancellor. I may, however, observe that, even if the security was the same in the case of a mortgage as in that of nominal or inscribed stock, the latter would usually be the more marketable security. This is a point to be borne in mind.

Unification of Rating Powers.

MR. J. WILLIAMS BENN: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the administrative difficulties arising out of rating powers exercised by overseers in such towns as Devonport, he will initiate legislation securing unification of rating powers by vesting such powers in local authorities.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I presume that my hon. friend has in view legislation to provide that in a borough all the rates shall be levied by the town council. I have this matter under consideration.

Boarded-out Poor Law Children.

COLONEL HERBERT (Monmouthshire, S.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will state the number of Poor Law children at present accommodated in the district and separate schools, the village communities, and grouped cottage homes of metropolitan unions and provincial unions respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The number of children in separate establishments of the guardians of Poor Law unions in England and Wales on the 1st January last was as follows:—

	London.	Outside London.	Total.
In district and separate schools - -	7,878	4,515	12,393
Cottage, scattered, and other homes -	3,876	10,714	14,590

Duties of Rural Postmen.

MR. DU CROS (Hastings): To ask the Postmaster-General what is the maximum number of hours for a rural postman to walk daily, and does this apply to town postmen, or are they expected to be on their feet for the whole eight hours in addition to walking to and from home.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The maximum duration of walking on duty for postmen employed on purely rural duties is an average of six hours per diem. The duties of a town postman are reckoned on a different basis, namely, on an attendance of forty-eight hours a week. A postman in a town is necessarily occupied for a considerable portion of his time on indoor duties in connection with deliveries or collections, and thus is not walking for the whole of his duty.

Weight Carried by Postmen.

MR. DU CROS: To ask the Postmaster-General whether the rule for giving assistance to postmen who may have above thirty-five pounds is intended to mean that a portion of the load may be transferred from one duty to another, or should a special delivery be made of the portion taken away to relieve a man; is he aware that the former method was adopted at St. Leonards-on-Sea on May 4th, No. 17 walk being relieved of some parcels which were transferred to No. 4 parcel duty, this duty thus being compelled to relieve another in spite of the fact that over fifty-two hours duty was worked on the latter duty during that week, and under these circumstances will overtime payment be made for the four hours.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) If a postman in a town is overburdened there is no reason why he should not be relieved by the transfer of part of his load to another postman on duty, provided, of course, that the second man is not thereby overburdened or his walk unduly prolonged. I will cause inquiry to be made as regards the particular case mentioned by the hon. Member and inform him of the result.

Publication of the MSS. of the Irish College in Rome.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the interest caused in Ireland by the publication by the Historical Manuscripts Commission of the MSS. at the Franciscan Monastery in Dublin, he will consider the advisability of securing the publication of similar historical documents, bearing on the same period, now at the Irish College in Rome.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) Inquiry shall be made into the suggestion of the hon. Member. But no funds are at present available for the purpose in question, and I cannot give any pledge on the subject.

Board of Works and the Lough Swilly Railway Company.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the directors of the Lough Swilly Railway Company have made charges against the Board of Works in respect both of certain alleged departures from specification by the contractors employed to make the Burtonport extension, and also of the character and amount of the rolling stock provided; and whether, in view of all the circumstances, the Treasury will now agree to grant an inquiry into the whole matter.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he has received a letter from Mr. Alexander Spense, secretary to the Londonderry, Lough Swilly, and Letterkenny Railway, urging on behalf of the board of directors that, in accordance with the views taken by the ratepayers, the Donegal County Council and the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce which have passed resolutions in favour of an inquiry, the charges made by the board of these railways against the Board of Works with reference to the Burtonport Railway and the expenditure of public money in reference thereto, and having regard to their granting to the subject of inquiry by a competent and impartial tribunal; and, if so, what reply has been given to that letter.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) After very full and repeated consideration of all the circumstances of this case, and in view of the terms of the Order in Council and the agreement with the Treasury for the construction, etc., of the line, the Treasury has decided that it would not be justified in referring the matter to an outside tribunal, and I am so informing Mr. Spence in reply to his letter referred to.

Provision of Fresh Peat Ground for the Township of Glasphein, Skye.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he is aware that the crofting township of Glasphein, in Glendale, Skye, belonging to the Congested Districts Board, is so seriously congested that the peat banks are practically exhausted, and that the neighbouring proprietor, who last year kindly granted permission for the crofters to take their supply of peats from his property, has this year prevented them from doing so; and if he will give instruction that the Congested Districts Board shall take steps to see that fresh peat ground is provided for their tenants on another part of their estate.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) I am informed that the facts are as stated. The Congested Districts Board are unable to insist that other townships having peat banks on their own common pasture should admit the crofters of Glasphein but any difficulties that may arise might best be dealt with by the Crofters Commission coming to an understanding with the tenants with whom arrangements have been made for purchase of holdings.

Vivisection—Severing of Vocal Nerves.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the practice resorted to at laboratories where experiments are performed on dogs and other living animals of cutting the nerves of vocalisation before commencing the experiments in order to prevent their cries being heard; and, seeing that such practices are in contravention of The Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, he will say what steps, if any, are being taken to prevent this additional and unnecessary pain to the victims of vivisection.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) If my hon. friend can give me particulars of any cases of the nature referred to I will at once have inquiry made, but I am informed that it is certainly not the practice in laboratories in this country to divide the nerves of vocalisation of animals before commencing experiments. I would remind him that no experiment involving a serious operation is allowed to be performed unless the animal is under the influence of some anæsthetic of sufficient power to prevent it feeling pain.

Compulsory Enfranchisement of Copyholds.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he will consider the desirability of removing the inconveniences which result from the antiquated system of copyhold tenure by substituting the compulsory for the voluntary enfranchisement of copyholds.

(*Answered by Sir John Walton.*) I have ascertained from the Lord Chancellor that he is not prepared at present take up this subject, or express any opinion upon it.

Indian Famine Expenditure.

MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the present financial position of the Bombay Government, owing to a recurrence of famine years; and whether he will in future Provincial Settlements consider whether some arrangement would be devised by which the additional expenditure on account of local famines could be borne either by the Government of India, or by increased special allotments of the Provincial Governments.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The hon. Member will see from the Report (appended to the Financial Statement recently presented to Parliament) of the Proceedings of the Governor-General's Council on the 28th of March that the question raised by him was then discussed at some length, and that Mr. Baker, the member in charge of the Finance Department, stated that it is the intention of the Government of India to examine the matter thoroughly. I shall no doubt receive a communication on the subject from the Government of India, and it will have my careful consideration.

Trades Union Wages in Royal Dockyards.

MR. J. WILLIAMS BENN: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the official inquiries into the question of establishing the trades union standard of wages in the Royal Dockyards are completed; and whether he anticipates being able to announce the decision of the Admiralty in this matter before Vote 8 of the Navy Estimates is taken.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The inquiries into the rates of pay of dockyard employees are completed. Proposals in regard to the wages, &c., of men of the various classes are now being formulated in connection with the workmen's petitions, and it is hoped that it may be possible to announce decisions in the matter before Vote 8 of the Navy Estimates is taken.

Sale of Sir Algernon Coote's Estate at Rearymore, Queen's County.

MR. DELANY (Queens County, Ossory) To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Estates Commissioners have sanctioned the sale of one division of Sir Algernon Coote's estate at Rearymore, Queen's County, and that the Kyle portion of the property has been offered to the tenants at twenty-three years purchase; whether he is aware that three tenants on this estate, who recently went into court, got reductions varying from twenty-six to forty per cent., which have been appealed against; and whether the Estates Commissioners will approach Sir Algernon Coote, with a view of effecting the sale of this estate.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that in August, 1905, agreements for the purchase of a portion of the estate referred to, including the townland of Rearymore, were lodged with them, but the portion in question has not yet been declared to be an "estate," and the advances have, therefore, not been sanctioned. The Commissioners have no knowledge of the number of years purchase at which the Kyle portion of the estate has been offered to the tenants, nor of the result of the fair rent proceedings. The Commissioners, however, will, when dealing with the question of declaring the lands to be an estate, consider whether the Kyle property ought to be included in the sale.

Union Quay Co-operative Federation Society, Cork.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the amount of money given the Union Quay Co-operative Federation Society, Cork City; whether it is usual to grant money to co-operative societies for trading purposes to persons who are not members of a co-operative society; and whether he can give the names of the members of this society.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Department of Agricultural and Technical Instruction have not made any payment to the society referred to, the correct name of which is the "Cork Co-operative Creameries Federation, Limited." The Department are informed that the members of this society are co-operative dairy societies which are federated with it for the purpose of having their butter churned; and that it is managed by a committee elected by the federated societies.

Sale of the Clonfin (Thompson) Estate.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will direct the Estates Commissioners to enter into negotiations for the sale of the Clonfin (Thompson) Estate, for the benefit of Longford evicted tenants, with the firm of Messrs. McCredy and Sons, Solicitors, Dublin.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they will communicate with the firm of solicitors named on the subject of the sale of the estate in question.

Delay in the Sale of the Cusack Estate.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, owing to the action of the receiver on the

Cusack (county Longford) Estate, motions are being made to delay the sale of this estate to the Commissioners; and whether he can now state if action will be taken to acquire this estate for the benefit of county Longford evicted tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The registrar of the Land Judge's Court informs me that the offer of the Estates Commissioners for the purchase of the Cusack Estate was brought before the Land Judge for consideration on the 11th instant. The case now stands adjourned for a fortnight in order to enable the solicitor having carriage of the sale to communicate with the Commissioners on the subject of certain conditions contained in their offer. The receiver repudiates the suggestion that he has taken any action calculated to delay the sale of the estate.

Sale of the Maconely Estate.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in the case of the Maconely Estate, county Longford, the vesting orders to tenants will soon be issued.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received their Inspector's report on this estate, and have considered the same and issued queries upon it, but at this stage of the proceedings it would not be possible to say when the orders vesting the holdings in the tenants will issue. The case is being duly attended to, and the sale will be completed with as little delay as possible.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

H.M.S. "Montagu."

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state the approximate time H.M.S. "Montagu" went aground, by what time salvage work was started by the salvage company on board H.M.S. "Montagu," and what are the terms of the contract with this company in reference to payments.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The "Montagu" went aground at 2.10 a.m. on May 30th. The salvage steamers which were chartered arrived on the night of the 31st, and started work next day. As regards the last part of the Question, it is not usual to publish the terms of current contracts.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, after H.M.S. "Montagu" went aground, a salvage steamer proceeded to her assistance in the fog and was alongside H.M.S. "Montagu" within ten hours after she had gone ashore; whether her assistance was declined, and, if so, for what reason; and whether the damage to H.M.S. "Montagu" was not very much increased by the delay in salvage operations.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: When the salvage steamer in question reached Lundy, arrangements for the salvage of the "Montagu" had already been entered into with the Liverpool Salvage Association, who were considered most capable of carrying out this work. As regards the last part of the Question, it is not a fact that the damage to the "Montagu" was increased by the delay.

Petty Officer Stewart's Pension.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the life pension of £12 per annum, granted from the 9th of July, 1902, to Petty Officer, Second Class, W. Stewart, No. 15,898, of Strangford, county Down, has been cancelled; and, if so, for what reason; and will he reconsider the case of this seaman who, after a naval service including reserve extending over a period of nearly 34 years, is now aged, infirm, and absolutely without other means of subsistence.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The pension granted to W. Stewart was not awarded to him as a "life pension." His age is 54, and in ordinary circumstances he would not have become entitled to any pension at all before reaching the age of 60. As it was certified in 1902, however, that he was incapacitated from contributing to his own support, the regulations enabled a temporary pension to be granted to him. His condition has now improved, and under the regulations applicable to his case, it was necessary to discontinue payment of the pension.

Flour Supplies for the Fleet.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that a cargo of flour has been landed from England at Castletown Berehaven for the use of that portion of the Fleet manœuvring on the Irish coast; will he say if any difficulty has been experienced at any time in getting a sufficient supply of flour from Irish firms for the use of the ships on the coast of Ireland; has any flour been brought from Ireland to English ports for the use of the Fleet; and whether, in view of the effect of this action on the Irish milling trade, steps will be taken to stop any further importation of flour from England to Ireland for the use of the Navy.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: A cargo of flour was recently landed at Berehaven from Deptford for the use of the Atlantic Fleet. The circumstances were exceptional, as the flour had been purchased in England for use at Gibraltar, it being understood that the ships would need to replenish before leaving for Home waters. Later on, however, the Admiral reported that it would be more convenient for the ships not to fill up until they reached Berehaven, but in the circumstances it was necessary to utilise the flour already available, as considerable expense to the Crown would have resulted from purchasing a duplicate quantity from Irish millers. In regard to the second point, our experience does not lead us to suppose there would be any difficulty in obtaining supplies of flour, in ordinary circumstances, from Irish firms to meet the requirements of ships on the coast of Ireland. In regard to the third point, I do not know of any such case, but if any Irish firms desire to tender for the requirements in this country, viz., at Deptford, Portsmouth, and Plymouth, they will be given opportunities of doing so. In regard to the last point, the circumstances in the present case were exceptional and are not likely to recur. In ordinary cases it is obviously more advantageous from every point of view to meet the requirements of the ships as far as possible from local resources, and this course will be followed.

Wreck of the "Star of Hope."

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether the attention of the Admiralty has been directed to the unusual delay which occurred before the Collieston coastguard rendered assistance to the trawler "Star of Hope," which was wrecked on the Aberdeenshire coast last December, and in consequence of which three of the crew lost their lives; and whether they have made or intend to make an inquiry into the matter.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Inquiry has been made and action taken in consequence.

Boscastle Coastguard Station.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, whether the new coastguard station at Boscastle, in Cornwall, has been roofed with foreign slates; from what country were such slates imported; whether, in view of the fact that some of the most productive slate quarries in the United Kingdom exist within but a few miles of the site of this building, he will say whether any and what saving was effected by the use of foreign slates in this case.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. LAMBERT, Devonshire, South Molton): The slates used were Welsh, not foreign.

Militia Sergeant-Majors' Pay.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can promise that if any increase of pay and pension is to be granted to warrant officers, Militia sergeant-majors will receive favourable consideration, in view of the fact that during annual training their duties are proportionately more onerous than those of line regiments.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddingtonshire): The question of the emoluments of Militia sergeant-majors has been frequently raised and it has been decided to make no alteration. It may be pointed out that their work, taking all the year round, is less onerous than that of a sergeant-major of the line.

Military Railway Staff.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether advantage has been taken of the experience gained in the South African campaign, and of the war between Japan and Russia, to construct a scheme whereby on the outbreak of war, if necessary, the working of railways will be efficiently carried out by a special military staff; and, if not, will he consider the advisability of instituting a department for the training of officers in the working of railways during war.

MR. HALDANE: As the result of the experiences gained in recent war a railway branch has been formed as the War Office under the Quartermaster-General. The necessary organisation for the working of railways in time of war in concert with the civil railway staff is receiving careful consideration.

Irishmen and the Army and Navy.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the fact that a number of circulars have been recently posted in prominent places throughout the North of Ireland calling upon Irishmen to refrain from joining the Army, Navy, or Police forces; and if any steps have been taken to trace the source from which these circulars emanate.

MR. HALDANE: My attention has been drawn to the matters alluded to, and I am not impressed with their importance.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): Is it an offence in law to advise a man not to go into the Army?

MR. HALDANE: I cannot say.

The Militia and Separation Allowances.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will recommend that Militiamen be granted separation allowance during annual trainings, as is permitted to men of the Army reserve when called up to do their reserve training.

MR. HALDANE: I am afraid that no money is available to meet the very large expense which this concession would involve.

Militia Mess Allowances.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the allowance of 6d. a day in lieu of rations in kind, which has hitherto been regularly allowed for years past to men employed in the officers' mess of Militia regiments during annual training, may be continued in the future.

MR. HALDANE: It is not intended to change the past practice in regard to the issue of this allowance, and the point will be made clear in the regulations.

Yeomanry Officers' Training.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the expenses to which Yeomanry officers are subjected during their annual training, for bands, subscriptions, and entertainments are regarded as burdensome by many officers; and whether, in view of the fact that these charges deter many young men from serving in the Yeomanry, he will represent to Commanding Officers the desirability of limiting those expenses as much as possible.

*MR. HALDANE: It is the duty of all Commanding Officers of Imperial Yeomanry to endeavour to keep down the expenses of officers as far as possible; I doubt whether any good purpose would be served by a mere general official representation to this effect.

MR. LONSDALE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that one of the Companies of the London Imperial Yeomanry is heavily in debt in consequence of these expenses?

*MR. HALDANE: I have no information as to that.

Inspection of American Canned Meat Factories.

MR. MOND (Chester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the officer appointed to inspect the conditions under which meat is prepared in American factories has hitherto been an instructor in the Army Service Corps on forage supplies; and whether he holds the

Birkenhead certificate for inspection of meat.

*MR. HALDANE: Lieutenant-Colonel Hobbs has had seven years experience as Assistant and Chief Instructor in Army Service Corps duties, which include the inspection of forage, live cattle, preserved, frozen, refrigerated and dead meat, and has special expert knowledge of the subject. He holds a certificate of proficiency in judging meat from the sanitary authorities of the London Central Meat Market, which is similar in every respect to that now obtained at Birkenhead.

Provision for Militiamen's Families.

MR. JOYCE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to complaints made by boards of guardians in Ireland that in many cases the wives and and children of Militiamen are constrained to become paupers during the absence of the husbands at training; and whether, in view of the increase entailed on the rates, provision will be made for the families of such men by providing separation allowances.

*MR. HALDANE: No complaints to the effect stated in the first part of the Question have been received. The expense involved by the provision of separation allowances would be very large, and no money is available for the purpose.

Canned Meat for the British Army.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the refusal of the Committee of the House of Representatives on Agriculture, on the 13th instant, at Washington, to order the meat packers in the United States to label or stamp the date of manufacture on each article of food product sold by the packers, he will issue an Army order that in future every can of preserved meat supplied to the Army shall be plainly stamped with the date of its manufacture; and that in future all bottles, tins, or cases of preserved food bought by the military authorities, whether for issue to our soldiers at Home, in India, or in the Colonies, shall be indelibly stamped, labelled, or marked in a similar manner.

*MR. HALDANE: My hon. friend is evidently unaware that it has long been a condition of the ordinary War Office contracts that tins of preserved food must have the date of canning visibly stamped on the inside.

Army Hospital Stoppages of Pay.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether patients in military hospitals are required to do fatigue duties whether convalescent or not; and, if so, whether he will issue an Army Order to prevent the patients being ordered to do work of any kind, having in view the fact that all soldiers in military hospitals are placed under stoppages of pay to recompense the public for the loss of their services whilst under medical treatment, and that, if he cannot see his way to issue the order above referred to, he will see to it that no man will have any deduction made from his pay on the day he has done any work whilst in an Army hospital.

*MR. HALDANE: The King's Regulations empower officers in charge of hospitals to employ on light duties, without extra pay, patients whom they consider able to aid the hospital establishment. Patients are never employed on the ordinary heavy work incidental to hospital routine, and not often on the lighter work authorised, which would be in the wards. The stoppages are intended to recompense the State for cost of maintenance and treatment.

St. Helena—Withdrawal of Garrison.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has received a petition signed by the majority of the inhabitants of the Island of St. Helena, praying that the garrison may not be removed from the island; and whether he still adheres to the intention of withdrawing the troops in the autumn of this year.

MR. HALDANE: A petition to this effect has been received. I should much regret it if the decision of the Army Council caused inconvenience to any of the inhabitants of St. Helena, but it is obvious that the Army Council ought not to recommend military expenditure which would burden the British taxpayer uselessly from a military point of view. It would be cheaper and better to make a direct grant of money. Whether this could be justified I cannot say, but my plain duty as a responsible War Minister is to reply to the last part of the Question put in the affirmative.

Chicago Meat Supplies in the Boer War.

Mr. HICKS BEACH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what was the quantity of Chicago canned meat that was supplied to the troops in South Africa during the late war; and what proportion of the mortality returns that were entered under the heading of enteric ought more properly to have been described as due to ptomaine poisoning.

Mr. HALDANE: Approximately, rather more than half the canned meat purchased came from the United States, but it is not possible to say how much Chicago meat was supplied to the troops in South Africa. Nothing is known of any cases classed as enteric which should have been described as ptomaine poisoning.

British Garrison in Egypt.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any British troops are under orders to leave Egypt; and whether there is any intention to reduce the garrison there.

Mr. HALDANE: No British troops are under orders to leave Egypt; the future composition of the British army of occupation is now under consideration.

Soldiers and Canned Meat.

Mr. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any troops have, during the last twelve months, refused to eat rations of canned meat issued to them; and, if so, will he discontinue in times of peace the issue of rations of tinned meat instead of fresh meat to soldiers, whether serving at Home or abroad.

Mr. HALDANE: The only case of which the Army Council are aware occurred at Bulford. A sample of the meat in question is being examined by an analyst. Stocks of preserved meat are kept in store in reserve for war purposes, and these ought to be turned over to avoid loss to the public. The practice has been to make periodical issues to the troops to enable this to be done. If this can be carried out consistently with what is the foremost consideration—the health and well-being of the soldiers—the practice will be continued, but not unless investigation shows that there is no danger to be apprehended.

Northern Nigeria Civil Service.

Captain CRAIG: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will arrange that in future the tour of service for the constabulary and political departments in Northern Nigeria be twelve months instead of eighteen months as at present, and so bring these services into line with all other departments, which have a tour of twelve months only.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.): The system by which officers of the political and constabulary departments are liable to serve for eighteen months (with a proportionate increase of leave in England) was adopted after careful consideration on the recommendation of Sir Frederick Lugard, and with the concurrence of the principal medical officer of the Protectorate, it being left to the discretion of the High Commissioner to grant leave to any officer after twelve months service if he should require it by reason of ill-health. Sir Frederick Lugard has not expressed any desire for the alteration of the system, and as at present advised the Secretary of State would not feel justified in requiring an alteration.

Colonial Services Vote.

Mr. WALKER (Leicestershire, Melton): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, when the Colonial Office Vote is put down again for discussion, he will arrange that it shall be preceded by the Colonial Services Vote, which was not reached on the 8th instant.

Mr. CHURCHILL: As the Colonial Office Vote provides the machinery for administering the Colonial Services Vote, it naturally and properly precedes it; but the wishes and convenience of the House must always regulate the choice of Votes under the Supply Rule.

Motor Traction in Northern Nigeria.

MR. WALKER: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies with reference to the suggested construction of railways in Northern Nigeria, which would facilitate the growth of cotton, whether the alternative of motor traction upon the roads which have been or are being constructed is also under consideration.

*MR. CHURCHILL: The hon. Member makes a valuable suggestion. The possibility of employing motor traction in Northern Nigeria has been under consideration, and some experiments have already been made in this direction. We have not yet learned the result.

South African Customs Convention.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that the recent Customs Convention in South Africa, if carried into effect in the Transvaal, would be to seriously increase the cost of every necessary of life; that such taxation of food is contrary to the wishes of the people of the Transvaal, as shown by recent meetings of protest; and whether he will urge upon the Legislative Council the advisability of ascertaining fully the feeling of the people, more especially in towns like Johannesburg, before consenting to these new tariff proposals.

*MR. CHURCHILL: The increased duties under the new Customs tariff come into effect on May 25th. The tariff is higher than the previous one, but simultaneously with the increased duties there has been a reduction of railway rates which should have the effect of very largely neutralising the effect of the increased duties on the cost of living in the inland colonies. I have noticed that there has been a meeting of protest on the part of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce. The Legislative Council is meeting this week and opportunity will be thereby afforded to members of it to express their opinions. It is an open secret that the continued existence of the South African Customs Union at the present time was bound to involve a higher tariff in view of the financial position of the coastal colonies. When the Transvaal and Orange River Colony possess elective Legislatures, their authoritative voice can be expressed on the subject. Meanwhile the general opinion in the two colonies appears to have been clearly in favour of retaining the Customs Union. The Convention can be denounced by any member of the Union giving one year's notice to date from June 30th in any year.

Canadian Immigration Bounties.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state what are the conditions which attach to the payment of the bounty to emigration agents by the Canadian Government in respect of emigrants from Ireland.

*MR. CHURCHILL: The bonus is paid to such steamship booking agents as are recognised by the Canadian Immigration Department upon tickets for Canada sold in any part of the United Kingdom to persons whose occupation is, and has been for at least one year, one of the following, viz.:—farmers, farm-labourers, gardeners, stablemen, carters, railway section-men, navvies or miners, and who have signified their intention of following farming in Canada, and to female domestic servants.

Gun Running in Zululand.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can now state whether the Zulus engaged in the Natal rising are armed with rifles, assegais, etc., supplied by Birmingham firms; and will he say whether these arms were supplied to them in connection with the Boer War.

*MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir; I have no more information on this subject than when I replied to the hon. Member on the 14th ultimo.[†]

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake to investigate any cases of gun running that may be brought under his notice?

*MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, any case of that kind will be rigorously followed up.

MR. BELLOC (Salford, S.): Have the rifles given to the natives during the Boer War been returned?

[†] See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 176.

*MR. CHURCHILL asked for notice of the Question.

Chinese Coolies in South Africa—Precautions against Crime.

MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now state what were the precise recommendations made by the Committee, appointed by Lord Selborne, for the prevention of further outrages by the Chinese deserters from the gold mines, and which of these recommendations His Majesty's Government have decided to adopt.

MR. CHURCHILL: The main recommendations of the Committee appointed to inquire into the control of the Chinese labourers, and the arrangements for dealing with desertion, were: That there should be a system of guarding the mine boundaries and the erection of physical barriers on such boundaries in the shape of wire fences: That an effective system should be instituted, in place of the present system of roll-call, for ascertaining from day to day the number and identity of labourers absent from work: That the European control on the mine premises be strengthened generally and in such a manner as to operate as a check upon the Chinese mine police and interpreters whose services the Committee consider cannot be entirely dispensed with: That in order to ensure better and more effective police control, the Witwatersrand area, as defined by the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904, be contracted to the actual mining area and the towns situated on the line of Reef; That the known bad characters now employed on the mines be repatriated. His Majesty's Government are not able to sanction further restrictions either by legal enactment or by physical barriers, and are not, therefore, able to approve wire fences or the proposed amendment of the law for contracting the Witwatersrand area. With these exceptions the recommendations are in process of being carried out as far as possible. Lord Selborne has informed the Secretary of State that regulations will be issued compelling every employer of Chinese labourers to employ at least five white men on each mine whose sole duty it will be to keep order among labourers and Chinese police and check gambling and sale of opium in the compounds.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): Is it not the case that up to now there have been no physical barriers of any kind in any of the mining areas?

MR. CHURCHILL: I believe there has been no general system of circumvallation.

Bambaata's Death.

MR. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government have received from Natal any official news of the death of the chief Bambaata; and whether, if they have, they will use their good offices with the Government of the Colony with a view to their facilitating a return of the natives to their allegiance.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State received a telegram from the Governor last Friday stating that Bambaata was killed in the fight on the 10th, and that his body was identified by his brother and many others. The Government of Natal is as deeply concerned as His Majesty's Government or the hon. Member himself to bring to an end a state of disorder and unrest which daily imposes upon the Colony a very heavy financial burden, and causes widespread anxiety and dislocation in all classes of society.

Imprisoned Chinese Coolies.

MR. MOND: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state what is the number of Chinese coolies now imprisoned in the Transvaal.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am not able to give the total number, but inquiry will be made at once by telegraph.

MR. ASHLEY: Has any one ever heard of imprisoned coolies attending race meetings as the Chinese do in South Africa?

MR. CHURCHILL: The Question obviously refers to coolies actually undergoing imprisonment.

Conviction of Chinese Coolies.

MR. MOND: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state the number of Chinese coolies convicted for offences of all descriptions, whether tried summarily or otherwise, since January 1st, 1906.

MR. CHURCHILL: The total number of convictions for the first three months of the year was 4,446, of which 3,734 were cases of desertions and absence of various descriptions, being rather in the nature of breaches of regulations than criminal offences.

Recruitment of Kaffirs for the Mines.

MR. MOND: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government are aware that the sole right to recruit Kaffirs is enjoyed by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association; whether they are prepared to put an end to this monopoly; and whether they will throw open recruiting of Kaffirs to other responsible persons or bodies.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association is a voluntary union of all or most of the principal mine-owners to regularise and control the recruiting of native labourers for the mines. It occupies a commanding position so far as recruiting in British South Africa is concerned, and enjoys a practical monopoly in respect of British Central Africa and Portuguese East Africa. Although this arrangement constitutes a great improvement upon the "free recruiting" system which it has replaced, it is not itself without serious disadvantages. His Majesty's Government is not unwilling to permit recruiting on equal terms by other bodies, but their *status*, substance, and responsibility must be clearly established beforehand in each particular case, in order that there may be no risk of the natives being deceived by extravagant promises or ill-used on their way to the mines.

Opium Smoking in China.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any official information showing that instructions have been sent to the viceroys and governors of provinces in China to put into effect the proposals of Yuan Shih Kai, Viceroy of Chihli, to discourage and restrict the opium smoking habit amongst the officials and literate classes in that country.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): His Majesty's Government have no information to this effect.

SIR H. COTTON was understood to ask if the right hon. Baronet would make inquiries.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Yes, if any information is sent me on which I can base them.

The Macedonian Budget.

MR. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Imperial funds out of which the Turkish Government have undertaken to make good all deficits in the Macedonian Budget will be applied for that purpose in conjunction with the revenues from the increased Customs duties, or only in the event of such revenues being insufficient; whether the Customs revenues will be applicable to meet military expenditure; and whether it will be permissible for the Turkish Government, after His Majesty's Government have given their consent to the increase in the Customs, the amount of which almost exactly equals the deficit in the Macedonian Budget, to apply the whole of the funds now absorbed by the deficit to the finding of the kilometric guarantee for the Baghdad Railway.

SIR EDWARD GREY: (1) The Turkish Government have undertaken to make good any deficit in the Macedonian Budget out of Imperial revenues generally. If the increased Customs duties are devoted to this purpose, the deficit to be made good from other revenues will *pro tanto* be diminished. (2) The proceeds of the increase of 3 per cent. in the Customs duties will, if the increase is agreed to, be applicable to the Macedonian Budget as a whole, of which the military expenditure forms a part. (3) For the last part of this Question I must refer the hon. Member to the first paragraph of the reply made to his Question on the 13th instant,† viz., that

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† See Col. 958.

His Majesty's Government have no control over Turkish revenues, the allocation of which has not formed the subject of any agreement between the two Governments. But it is estimated that the increased Customs duties will fall considerably short of what is required to make up the deficit in the Macedonian vilayets, and, in view of the difficulty which already exists in meeting this, it cannot be assumed that, if assistance is given, large sources of Turkish revenue will automatically be set free for other purposes.

Unrest in Russia.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any representations will be made to the Russian Government as to the treatment by officials of the people in the Russian Empire before the British Fleet is sent on a visit of ceremony to Kronstadt, and further steps are taken to commit His Majesty's Government to definitely friendly arrangements with Russia.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Answer to the hon. Member's Question is in the negative.

MR. THORNE: May I ask what is the object of the Government in sending a British Fleet to Kronstadt? Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that a boy of fourteen and a girl of eighteen have been publicly executed at Riga?

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he has seen in the newspapers the telegram sent by five members of the Russian Duma to the effect that the massacres of the Jews are being continued and are being officially countenanced by the Government; and whether that is not sufficient cause for his Department to take action to influence the Russian Government to stop these outrages in the interests of civilisation?

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have seen the statement in the newspapers, but I have no official information of any kind with regard to the matter. With regard to the Question of the hon. Member for West Ham, the Admiralty are intending to send a Fleet for a cruise in the summer in the Baltic, in the course of which, according to present arrangements, the ships will visit German, Swedish, and Russian ports; and I think it is premature to assume that anything will occur that would make it necessary to alter those arrangements.

MR. KEIR HARDIE asked whether, in the event of these massacres being continued, orders would be given that the Fleet should not visit Russian ports to mark our disapproval.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I cannot add to the Answer I have already given.

The Attack on British Officers in Egypt.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he could give any information as to the cause of the recent affray between Egyptians and British officers; whether the British officers were in uniform and were engaged in the performance of any military duty at the time; by what tribunal it was proposed to try the Egyptians concerned in the disturbance; and whether the trial will take place in public?

SIR EDWARD GREY: The information which we have received hitherto states that, during a march of mounted infantry from Cairo to Alexandria, five British officers were attacked by natives whilst shooting pigeons in a village near Tantah. One officer has died from the effects of the injuries he received, and two others are badly injured. The actual cause of the attack has not yet been ascertained, and it is not known whether the officers were at the time in uniform. The matter will be dealt with under a Khedival decree of February 25th, 1895, which institutes a special tribunal to deal with crimes of violence against officers and men of the Army of Occupation. The meetings of the tribunal will be held in public. The facts of the case cannot be thoroughly known until the judicial inquiry has taken place.

MR. DILLON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman proposed to allow these Egyptians to be sent before the special tribunal before it had been proved that the officers were in uniform and were engaged in the performance of military duties.

SIR EDWARD GREY: That is a point on which we have not yet received full information. We cannot tell without inquiry how far that point would affect the question of the tribunal before which the case should come.

MR. DILLON: Will the right hon. Gentleman direct the attention of the Egyptian authorities to that point?

SIR EDWARD GREY: We are expecting more information. I will bear that point in mind.

The Deportation of James Shuttle.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that Shuttle, the ex-convict, one of the witnesses in the Hugh Watt's case, has got into trouble in Winnipeg, Canada, and to the indignation expressed in that town over the action of the British authorities in sending Shuttle to Canada without notifying the Canadian police; and what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

The following Questions also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the man Shuttle, one of the witnesses in the case of Rex. *v.* Watt, and who was recently deported at the expense of the special Service Fund to Canada, has already come into collision with the Canadian law; and whether, before deporting at the public expense any other witness for the prosecution in this case, especially to British Colonies, he will inquire into his record.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the deportation of James Shuttle, one of the witnesses in the Watt case, to Canada has raised indignation in that country; whether, in consequence of popular feeling there against this action of His Majesty's Government, Shuttle has been forced to remove to the United States; whether His Majesty's Government have received any representations on the subject from the Government of Canada; and whether he recognises the objections to lending Government aid to the emigration of persons whose presence at Home is undesirable.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): In answering this Question I propose to deal also with the Questions of the hon. Members for South Hackney and North-West Lanark. I have seen a newspaper report of the occurrence to which the hon. Member refers, but I have no other information with regard to the matter. Shuttle had never been sentenced to penal servitude and was not under police supervision. In consequence of the evidence which he had given he was unable to obtain employment in London and was exposed to molestation. It was thought right to assist him in making a fresh start in life. He went to Canada voluntarily. No conditions as to his remaining there were imposed upon him. Under these circumstances it was not, in my opinion, the duty of the police in this country to send notice to the Canadian police of the man's antecedents. No representations have been received from the Government of Canada on the subject, but should any representations be received full and, I think, satisfactory explanations will be at once given.

Infantile Mortality.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the National Conference on Infantile Mortality and the speech there delivered by the President of the Local Government Board, in which he attributes infantile mortality and other evils largely to the employment of married women three months before and six months after child-birth, he will consider the possibility of dealing at an early date with this subject.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The question is one attended by many difficulties both as regards the enforcement of, and the possible results of, such a prohibition as suggested; I am not prepared to deal with it immediately. I am, however, fully aware of the great importance of the subject, which has already been under consideration in connection with the

Report of the Physical Deterioration Committee, and it will receive my attention in connection with any amending factory legislation.

The Case of Hugh Watt.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is yet in a position to make any representation to His Majesty in reference to the sentence recently passed upon Hugh Watt; and, if not, whether he will be prepared to consider any further representations upon the subject.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I can only refer to the Answer I gave to the hon. Member for East Leeds on May 28th,† and add that any further representations which may be made on Watt's behalf will, of course, receive my careful consideration.

Railway and Canal Commission.

COLONEL LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in filling up the vacancy on the Railway and Canal Commission, he will appoint some one practically aquainted with agriculture and the transport needs and difficulties of that national industry.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I am not at present able to make any statement on this subject.

The Companies' Acts.

SIR W. EVANS-GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the growing practice among certain classes of limited liability companies of ignoring the Companies' Act, by omitting to call annual meetings and omitting to present annual Reports and accounts as required by the Act and their Articles of Association; and whether in the interests of investors and the commercial credit of this country, he proposes to take any steps either by Board of Trade inquiry or otherwise to enforce the law.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: My attention has been called to the omissions referred to in the Question, and I propose to consider the question of what Amendments in the Company Laws generally are desirable when I have received the Report of the Committee which is now sitting. I may add, for the information of the hon. and gallant Member, that I now understand that the Report may be expected almost immediately.

Lighting of the Irish Coast.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the correspondence which passed between the Great Southern and Western Railway Company of Ireland and the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland upon the subject of providing gaslight buoys within two miles of Rosslare Harbour, where the route lies between Greenore Point and the tail of the South Bank, through a short channel over half a mile in width; whether oil-lighted buoys were tried in this roadstead and failed; whether he is aware that similar gas-lighted buoys have been placed for a longer distance on the opposite side of the Irish Channel at Fishguard; can he state why a style of lighting on one side of the same company's route cannot be maintained on the other; and whether, as the total expenditure for this work would only amount to £7,000 for erection and £200 per annum for maintenance, he will direct, in the interests of safe-guarding human life and giving facilities for the development of the Rosslare and Fishguard route to England, that this sum will be placed upon the next Lighthouse Estimates with a view to having these buoys erected immediately.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland has favoured me with copies of the letters addressed to him on this subject by the Great Southern and Western Railway Company. I understand that some six years ago an automatic lighted and whistling buoy was tried on the South Shear of Rosslare and failed. As regards the opposite side of the Irish Channel the Board of Trade sanctioned the erection of a lighthouse at Strumble Head, but this was considered desirable in the interests of general navigation, and the special use likely to be made of it by the steamers running between Fishguard and

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† See Cols. 69–70–71.

Rosslare was recognised by the Great Western Railway Company, who are contributing £2,000 towards the cost. I am not aware of any gas lighted buoys having been placed at the expense of the General Lighthouse Fund off Fishguard. A proposal to place such buoys off Rosslare Harbour was recently made by the Commissioners of Irish Lights, but neither the Trinity House nor my own advisers are of opinion that they are required in the interests of general navigation; and, in these circumstances, I am not prepared to sanction the placing of gas lighted buoys here at the expense of the General Lighthouse Fund.

Foreign Meat—Alleged Deaths at Hull.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the Report of Dr. Robinson submitted to the Sculcoates (Hull) Board of Guardians on the 12th June inst., that there had been thirty-five cases of sickness with six deaths in the workhouse; will he state what was the cause of death; and what space of time did the doctor's Report cover.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): Perhaps I may be allowed to answer this Question. I have seen a copy of Dr. Robinson's Report, dated the 5th instant, in which he stated that during the previous week there had occurred in the workhouse a serious outbreak of diarrhœa and sickness, in all about thirty-five cases, of which number six had died. He attributed their deaths to that cause. He considered that the outbreak was occasioned by the consumption of certain frozen meat. I understand that the matter has been inquired into by a special committee of the guardians, who report that it was not proved to their satisfaction that the frozen meat was the cause of the outbreak. They further report that the meat was in a wholesome condition on delivery at the workhouse, but that it had not been kept under proper conditions. The guardians have not yet had an opportunity of considering this Report.

Inspection of Imported Meat.

*MR. STARKEY (Nottinghamshire, Newark): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, having regard to the insanitary conditions under which American meat is prepared for market, and to the fact that several persons are reported to have died recently at Hull from eating Argentine meat, he will at once take steps to have each consignment of foreign meat, in tins or otherwise, inspected on arrival in this country; and will he also cause a certificate to be issued showing the date of such inspection.

MR. JOHN BURNS: My right hon. friend has asked me to reply to this Question. I am not at present in a position to take the steps suggested by the hon. Member, but I am considering the necessity of obtaining further powers for dealing with food imported from abroad.

Infantile Mortality.

MR. ALDEN: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will call the attention of the boards of guardians, by circular or otherwise, to the rate of infantile mortality in many districts throughout the country, and ask for their co-operation in reducing that mortality, especially by giving medical relief to infants whose parents are unable to provide it, without making such relief a debt.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have no reason to suppose that guardians are unwilling to afford medical relief for infants whose parents are unable to provide it, nor have I any evidence to show that, where it is the practice to give medical relief on loan, persons properly entitled to receive relief are thereby deterred from applying for it. It does not at present appear to me necessary to send a circular to all boards of guardians as suggested, but if my hon. friend is aware of any particular cases of failure to give relief to the infants of parents unable to provide it, and he will communicate the facts to me, I will further consider the matter.

South Uist Postal Arrangements.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that the Island of Eriskay, in South Uist, has only three deliveries of letters in the week; and whether, having regard to the circumstances of this island, namely, that half the population are absent for six months in the year, earning their livelihood elsewhere, and of the importance of the correspondence, not only in the form of letters, but of remittances and parcels to the comfort and convenience of the district, he will reconsider the decision recently given, and endeavour to arrange that a daily delivery may be given.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets Poplar): I will have further inquiry made into the question of increasing the frequency of the mail service to Eriskay, and I will inform the hon. Member of the result in due course.

Cowper-Temple Teaching in Elementary Schools.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can state in how many cases, if any, under Sections 8 and 9 of the Education Act of 1902, the Board of Education has had appeals for the erection of new elementary schools in areas already sufficiently supplied with provided school accommodation at the instance of parents who have expressed dissatisfaction with the Cowper-Temple religious teaching provided by such existing provided schools; and in how many cases such new schools have been sanctioned.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The Board do not receive applications for new schools from parents, but from persons prepared to provide new premises. The number of such proposals received since the Act of 1902 is very large. Many of them, for one reason and another, have not been proceeded with; and it is thus impossible for me to say how many of the various proposals were occasioned by any dissatisfaction of parents with the teaching given in existing undenominational schools (if any) in the area. If we take into account, however, only those cases where a new school or enlargement has, in fact, been sanctioned by the Board on appeal, the point referred to by the hon. Member only arises, of course, in cases where the new building has been provided to give denominational education. Of these there have been twenty-five, of which, so far as I have been able to ascertain, eight were numerically redundant, that is to say, there was sufficient room in neighbouring schools to accommodate the children for whom the new building was to be provided, and therefore only those parents would presumably use the new schools who preferred the new denominational instruction given in them to the religious instruction provided in the neighbouring schools, whether council or voluntary, as the case might be. All of these eight new buildings were Roman Catholic, except two, both of which were Church of England. In the seventeen other new denominational schools or enlargements, I cannot say to what extent these conditions prevailed; but, so far as can be ascertained, there seems not to have been room in any existing schools within reach for the greater number, at all events, of the children who are accommodated in the new buildings. It is, therefore, impossible in these instances to make any deduction as to how far the parents of the children to be accommodated were dissatisfied with the Cowper-Temple religious teaching.

Cost of Elementary Education—Proportions borne by Exchequer Grants and Local Rates.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can state for the last completed financial year the percentage proportions of the cost of elementary education borne by Exchequer grants and local rates respectively, in London, and in England and Wales, excluding London respectively.

MR. BIRRELL: Taking the figures given in the statement, Cd. 2916, showing the expenditure of each local education authority under Part I. and Part II. of the Education Act, 1902, recently presented to Parliament, which are, it must be remembered, not in all cases a trustworthy guide owing to incomplete periods, it appears that for the year ended March 31st, 1905, the proportion of Exchequer grants to total expenditure on elementary education was, in the case of London, 31·2 per cent., and the proportion provided from local funds was 68·8 per cent.; the same figures for England and Wales, excluding London, being 58·3 per cent. and 41·7 per cent.

The local funds do not always consist only of rates. It would be, however, a mistake to suppose from these figures that London is the only local authority's area where the proportion of expenditure on elementary education from local funds is larger than that provided from Exchequer grants. There are between 50 and 60 other local authorities of which this is true in varying degrees. In Hastings, *e.g.*, the figures are 35·7 per cent. and 64·3 per cent.; in Hove, 37·7 per cent., and 62·3 per cent.; in Barry practically the same; and in Bridlington 42 per cent. and 58 per cent.

Transfer of Voluntary Schools—Government Proposal.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education when he will put the House in possession of the proposed Amendment or new clause in the Education Bill by which owners of voluntary schools may be given an opportunity of transferring their schools, under arrangement, to the local education authority if they desire to do so.

MR. BIRRELL: In view of the fact that the terms of such a clause as I foreshadowed must depend upon the shape that Clauses 3 and 4, and possibly Clause 6, ultimately assume, I cannot undertake to put it on the Paper until those clauses have been disposed of in this Committee. I should, perhaps, remind the hon. Baronet that in his Question he refers only to one half of the suggested clause, whereas the proposal was inherently bilateral, involving an obligation upon owners to transfer schools when desired by the local authority, as much as upon authorities to take over schools offered to them.

Religious Instruction in Provided Schools.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can lay upon the Table any of the information respecting religious instruction at present given in provided schools, which has been repeatedly promised by the Government.

MR. BIRRELL: An instalment of the Return, ordered by the House of Lords on this subject, comprising a considerable number of local authorities, is now published and can be obtained from the Votes Office.

Agricultural Education.

MR. ASHLEY: To ask the President of the Board of Education what are the functions of the Board of Education with regard to higher agricultural education; and whether he will take any steps to remove the disadvantages arising from the conflicting jurisdiction of the Boards of Education and Agriculture in this matter.

MR. BIRRELL: I cannot set out within the limits of an Answer to a Question all the various functions of the Board of Education in respect of higher agricultural education. The Reports and Regulations of the Board give the requisite information on the subject The Board of Education keep in as close touch as possible with the Board of Agriculture, and conferences take place between the two Departments on matters of common interest. I am not aware of any conflict of jurisdiction in practice, and any likelihood of it arising upon border-line questions is minimised by the harmonious relations which I hope and believe subsist and will continue to subsist between the two Offices.

Sheepscab in Northumberland.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somersetshire, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the Board are aware of the dissatisfaction existing in Northumberland at the Sheep Dipping (North of England) Order of 1906; whether they are aware that the outbreaks of sheepscab in the county have averaged only 10 per annum for the last five years out of more than a million sheep; and whether under the circumstances the Board can withdraw the Order.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): We are aware that Northumberland is comparatively free from sheepscab at the present time, but the Board think that it would be unwise to omit the county from the area to which the Order applies. The Order does little more than render general the existing practice of the principal flockmasters in the county as regards the dipping of sheep.

Danish Bacon Exports.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he is aware that the export of bacon from Denmark to the United Kingdom in 1905 was some 264,000 cwts. less than in 1904; is the decrease to be attributed to a certain disease in the joints and consequent restrictions; will he say what amount of fresh bacon was exported from Denmark through private firms in 1905; and whether these exports consisted of infected pigs.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: The decrease in the export of bacon from Denmark to the United Kingdom in 1905, as compared with 1904, is approximately as stated in the Question. Steps were taken by the Danish Government to prevent the export of bacon from pigs suffering from rickets in February, 1905, but I am unable to state whether the decreased exportation is attributable to this fact, nor have we any information as to the amount or quality of the bacon exported from Denmark through private firms in 1905.

MR. JOYCE: And during those years did disease exist among Irish pigs?

SIR EDWARD STRACHY: I must ask for notice of that Question.

MR. JOYCE: I can tell you it did not.

Fires on Crown Lands.

SIR ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, having regard to the increase of fires in the New Forest, he is able to state what steps have been taken by His Majesty's Commissioners of Woods, at the request of the verderers, on behalf of the commoners, to burn certain districts to improve the pasture, and also for the protection of plantations; and whether, in addition, he can also furnish any Reports on the number of recent fires, caused by an incendiary or accident, mentioning the areas and the amount of damage done in each case, with special reference to the recent fire in Knightwood enclosure.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): At the request of the verderers on behalf of the commoners the Crown Officers, assisted by some of the local commoners in each place, have burned, during the late spring: In the east district 173 acres, in the north district 770 acres, in the west district 150 acres; total 1,093 acres. This burning was spread over seventeen different places, the area burned varying from 3 to 250 acres. Similar areas were burnt last spring and also in former years. In addition to this the Crown burned, for the protection of certain plantations and the forest generally an area of 302 acres in the three districts. Fires caused by an incendiary or accident occurred in sixty-eight places, by which over 1,200 acres more were burned. Most of them were speedily extinguished by the watchers employed, but there were several of large extent—Hill Top 112 acres, Longdown 40, Shirley Holmes 200, Wilverley Plain 500, Hincheslea Wood 86. The extent of the fire at Knightwood enclosure, which was possibly accidental, was 75 acres. Considerable damage was done to the growing timber, but it is not possible to estimate it accurately at present.

Members' Catering Arrangements.

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Mid Derbyshire, as Chairman of the Kitchen Committee, whether he is aware that a box containing food was recently sent from the kitchen to one of the dining rooms with the inscription "Armours, E. St. Louis, Chicago, Futhurth, Kansas City. Chickens"; and will he say whether any and what portion of the food supplied to Members comes from Chicago.

*MR. JACOBY (Derbyshire, Mid.): In reply to the hon. Member, a box used for conveying cake, pastry, etc., from the kitchen to the Press gallery, bore the inscription of Armours, etc. I am having an inquiry made as to how this box came on the premises. No food of any kind, used in the House, comes from Chicago. The Kitchen Committee purchase food of the best quality only, which is supplied by reliable and respectable firms.

Irish Magistracy.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland what are the property qualifications necessary in the case of gentlemen holding, or about to be appointed, to the commission of the peace for counties in Ireland; and will he say what are the fees payable to county officials by such gentlemen on their appointment to office.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool Exchange): No property qualification is required by law for persons about to be appointed to the Magistracy in either Counties or Boroughs in Ireland. No fees are payable to county officials on the appointment of Magistrates, but by the Rules of Court made pursuant to the Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act, 1877, every Commission of the Peace must bear judicature stamps to the value of £6. The cost of these stamps must be provided by the person about to be appointed and is paid into the Revenue.

MR. O'DOWD: Are the same fees charged in England?

MR. CHERRY: I have no information on that point.

County Down Postal Arrangements.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will arrange a daily postal delivery to and from Strangford, Cloghy, Kilclief, Killard, and Ballyhornan in place of the four deliveries per week, as at present, in view of the fact that the residents of those neighbourhoods have been accustomed for the past twenty years to have their letters delivered on the two days when the postman did not call by the coastguardmen at Killard, which station has recently been abolished.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: A delivery on every week-day is already afforded at Cloghy and in a part of Kilclief; but I regret to find that owing to the comparatively high cost of the existing service to the other places mentioned, I should not be justified in incurring the additional expenditure which would be involved by increasing the frequency of the post at those places.

County Kerry Rural Postman's Pay.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the rural postman from Scartaglen to Knockreigh, county Kerry, has to travel an average of eleven miles per day, and in consequence is unable to undertake any outside work to supplement his salary; and whether, seeing that this man cannot maintain his wife and family under the circumstances, he will consider the propriety of giving him some advance in his wages commensurate with the duties he has to perform.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: When this post was tested in 1904 the distance travelled by the postman was eight and three quarter miles, and the total length of his duty was three hours, but another test of the post will at once be made with the view of ascertaining whether an increase of the man's wages is justified.

India and the Colonial Conference.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in the representation of India at the next Colonial Conference in 1907, he will take into consideration the advisability of inviting not only a representative official of the Government of India to attend the Conference, but also a representative of the people themselves, chosen, if need be, by the Government from among the non-official members of the Legislative Councils.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): As at present advised we doubt the expediency of the course suggested, but it will be considered.

Ex-Cabinet Ministers' Pensions.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will lay upon the Table of the House a copy of the declarations made by the present holders of political pensions.

The following Questions on the same subject also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether the last political pension granted was given after the late Government had resigned.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the amount of the income which is deemed by the Treasury so insufficient for an Ex-Minister as to justify the award of a pension under the Political Pensions Act, 1869.

I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if there has been any refund from the estate of upwards of a quarter of a million sterling of the political pension awarded by Mr. Gladstone, on 12th August, 1869, to a colleague, who had been Judge Advocate-General for six years and President of the Poor Law Board for the same period, and under which £30,810 12s. 8d. was received by the pensioner; and if any representation has been addressed to his heirs on the subject.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: While replying to this and the following Question by my hon. friend perhaps I may be allowed at the same time to answer Questions 68 and 69 addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the hon. Member for Central Sheffield. Section 7 of the Political Offices Pensions Act, 1869, which is an embodiment of a section of an Act of 1834, provides as follows—perhaps I had better read the exact words: "And whereas the principle of the regulations for granting allowances of this nature is and ought to be founded on a consideration, not only of the services performed by the individual to the State, but of the inadequacy of his private fortune to maintain his station in life; be it therefore enacted that from and after the passing of this Act, whenever any person shall seek to obtain any one of the pensions before mentioned, his application for that purpose shall be made in writing to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, to which he shall subscribe his name, and which shall contain not only a statement of the services performed by him, and the grounds on which such pension is claimed, but a specific declaration that the amount of his income from other sources is so limited as to bring him within the intent and meaning of this Act and the principle herein above declared, and without such declaration no pension as herein before provided or authorised shall be granted." The allegation of insufficient income is no doubt in each case supported by information satisfactory to the First Lord of the Treasury for the time being, who is asked to grant the pension, but this information is, of course, of a confidential character. I have not myself had any experience in the matter, as when I assumed office the whole number of these pensions which are limited by statute had been assigned to different beneficiaries under the late Government. The latest grant was made on the 5th of December, 1905, before the then Ministry had surrendered the Seals of Office. With regard to the case of the former pensioner referred to by the hon. Member for Central Sheffield, no representation was made to the heirs for the refund of any part of the political pension awarded. I may mention that subsequently to the award of that pension a rule was made at the instance of Mr. Gladstone by which an applicant is further required to surrender his pension if at any time he should receive an accession of fortune.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT asked if the Government would support a Bill on the subject.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I have not yet considered that, but if I am asked for my personal opinion, I say I am opposed to the system altogether.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I will repeat the Question this day week.

MR. MORTON said his second Question had not been answered.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he did not know what particular act constituted resignation. The pension was applied for on December 1st and awarded on December 5th.

MR. MORTON wished to know if resignations could be withdrawn before surrender of seals.

SIR. H CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that was a constitutional point he was not acquainted with.

Division Methods.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether there is any precedent for the suspension or alteration of the Rules of Procedure or Standing Orders regulating the public business of the House by the Government without an order of the House; and whether, seeing that in connection with the new method of taking divisions ancient usage has been departed from in several points, namely, the necessity for every Member who takes part in a division to be within the doors of the House when the Question is put if his vote is to be valid, the requirement that every Member should withdraw from the Chamber whilst the division is being taken, the compulsion upon every Member inside the House to vote in any division, and other points of the same character, he intends to give the earliest opportunity to the House to record its opinion upon the changes which have been introduced into its ancient procedure.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: There is in the new practice, which I understand to be experimental only, nothing which contravenes any of the Standing Orders. If it is found, as I believe it to be, generally acceptable, I think it would be desirable to embody it in a new Standing Order, and repeal the old Standing Orders which do not give a recognisable description of a division under the new plan. This can be done with other alterations of the Standing Orders which may be necessitated by the recommendations of the Procedure Committee.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said the first part of his Question had not been answered.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: There is nothing against the ordinary practice and procedure of the House in what has taken place. I believe the regulations which were acted upon were of a mandatory kind and were imposed at the discretion of the Speaker or of the Chairman of Committees.

The Late Mr. Seddon.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he will consider the desirability of making representations to the Rector of St. Margaret's, the official church of the House of Commons, with regard to the holding of a memorial service in connection with the late right hon. Richard Seddon, simultaneously with the funeral in New Zealand.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I understand that a memorial service is to be held to-morrow at St. Paul's Cathedral, and I conceive that this will afford an opportunity to those who desire to show their respect for the memory of Mr. Seddon, whose death we are all deploring.

Scottish Estimates.

MR. CROMBIE: I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he is aware that, owing to a private Bill having been put down for Thursday last, only two and a half hours were available to private Members for the discussion of Scottish Estimates, after the Secretary for Scotland had made his opening statement; and whether he will set aside another day for Scottish Supply.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am afraid that at this period of the session it is very unlikely that another day can be given for Scottish Estimates. I will see, however, if part of a day can be found so as to restore the two and a half hours of which Scotland was deprived on Thursday.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): Does the right hon. Gentleman think an average of six hours per session for the discussion of these Estimates—that having been the average for the last ten years—is adequate?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I quite agree it is not.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why not suspend the eleven o'clock rule?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: If that means putting off the discussion of Scottish matters till the early hours of the morning I should not like to see it done.

Worcester Election Petition.

MR. BILLSON (Staffordshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether the Government intends at an early date to take the necessary steps for the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the extensive prevalence of bribery at the last election for the city of Worcester, reported by the election judges.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes, it is our intention.

Workmen's Compensation Bill.

Mr. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether in view of the fact that the Government have been three times defeated on the Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill in the Standing Committee on Law, he can inform the House what course the Government propose to adopt as to the future conduct of the measure.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I can really see no occasion for making any statement such as the hon. Member asks for. So far as I am aware, nothing has happened to prevent the Workmen's Compensation Bill coming up in due course for the Report stage, when any alterations made in the Standing Committee may be considered on their merits.

The Education Bill.

Mr. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) asked the Prime Minister whether, in fixing a time limit for the discussion of the several clauses of the Education Bill, he would also make arrangements, either by agreement with the various parties in the House or by the appointment of a representative committee, on which Mr. Speaker or the Chairman of Committees, or both, should sit, to secure that Amendments raising issues which it was essential to discuss adequately in Committee or on the Report stage should have precedence.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I quite appreciate my hon. friend's point, and agree with the object which he has in view as a general matter of procedure. But we cannot invent machinery for giving effect to what he desires for this occasion.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked what supply would be taken next Thursday.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the Post Office Vote would be taken first on Thursday, and it would be followed by the Vote for the Board of Agriculture.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc., with Amendments.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon the Table, and be printed. [No. 202.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 202.]

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 256.]

NEW MEMBERS SWORN.

Sir Frederick George Banbury, Baronet, for City of London.

The Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., Borough of St. George, Hanover Square.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL PROCEDURE.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the consideration of business relating to the Education (England and Wales) Bill (Procedure), if under discussion at eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House):"—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman*).

The House divided:—Ayes, 366; Noes, 86. (Division List No. 124.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, W.
Beauchamp, E.

Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.)
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex,Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,SirT.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David(MontgomeryCo.)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar,JohnA.(Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan,C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner,Col.Alan(Hereford,S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert,ColonelIvor(Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King,AlfredJohn(Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,EdmundG.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,HughCecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield,H.Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip

O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B. (Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond,John,E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D;
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt.Hon.E. (Dundee
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel,HerbertL.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth,ThomasF.(Leitrim,S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
TennantSirEdward(Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel(Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas,SirA.(Glamorgan,E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H(Somerset,E.
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,Hon.C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh.,N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJT.(Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.HughO.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beach,Hn.MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Doughty, Sir George
Du Cros, Harvey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. V. W. (Hants,W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon,SirW.Evans-(T'rHam.)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashf'rd)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.Edm'ds
Hill,SirClement(Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hodge, John
Jowett, F. W.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants.,Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver,SirLewis(Edinburgh,W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts,S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)

Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Snowden, P.
Starkey, John R.
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (PROCEDURE).

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): In moving the Resolution which stands in my name, I shall endeavour to state frankly, and as succinctly and clearly as possible, the grounds upon which I recommend it to the House. On entering on the last stage of the ordinary session of Parliament—a period at which we have arrived—it is natural for us to review the progress that has been made and consider not the claims and possibilities of individual Bills—the pruning and thinning and weeding process arises at a later period of the session—but the general position of business. In my opinion, no diagnosis of this sort can be even tolerably accurate which does not recognise and take into account a circumstance which is a powerful factor in the situation—namely, the growing reluctance to continue the sittings of Parliament after the month of July. Some of us who are old Members—and if anyone can say that of himself I can—are no doubt so habituated to the old times and seasons, the old periods into which we have been accustomed to divide the session of Parliament, the old manner of transacting business, that we are apt to continue, from pure habit, the traditional disposition of our time without concerning ourselves to consider whether it is the best disposition possible. But many among these Members of long standing have come to think that a change is both desirable and necessary, and those who hold that opinion have been largely reinforced this year out of the ranks of the new Members. No one who keeps his eyes and ears open can doubt that it is so; and the main feature of this change of view is a growing, and as I believe, a justifiable reluctance to sit through August and September. For my part, I fully accept that view. Indeed, I am not sure that it may not lead to further changes, before we are much older, in the disposition of our time—to the great change whereby the Parliamentary year will commence with an autumn session, which will be wound up in July. I remember that many years ago—thirty years ago, I should say—the House of Commons actually passed a Resolution to that effect at the instance of Sir George Trevelyan; but that expression of opinion remains a mere Resolution, because it was found that the administrative difficulties in the way were very great, and from that date to this nothing has been done in that direction. I merely mention it as a further possible development upon which I need not at present enter. What we propose for this year is that there shall be an adjournment over those months which, as far as my observation goes, are regarded as holiday months in every country in Europe, namely, August and September, with a sitting in the autumn to conclude the business of the year. This decision leads, naturally, to a consideration of the business which the House of Commons has at present on hand. That business is of great importance, but not, as it seems to me, excessive; certainly not beyond the desires of the country, and, I believe, of this House, and certainly not beyond the powers of Parliament if the order of business is reasonably and efficiently arranged. The view is sometimes entertained, and even expressed, that we have too much legislation; that legislation is a bad thing, and that Liberal legislation is an especially bad thing. While I would not interfere with those who entertain that opinion, I would say of it this, at least, that it can hardly be put forward on an occasion like this as the standard of our legislative action. If, then, we are to contemplate an autumn session, how can we best dispose of the time which is afforded to us? This has been, in many respects, an extremely active, busy, and useful session already. I refer specially to the work done by Grand Committees—the Merchant Shipping Bill and the Workmen's Compensation Bill, which have occupied an immense amount of time and labour, and it would surely be a monstrous thing if we were to allow all that labour to be thrown away and all that time to be wasted. But, after all, the principal Bill of the session is this Education Bill, which is a measure of first importance, of considerable complexity and difficulty, but not of great extent or great length. The Bill seeks to obtain from Parliament a decision on a problem which for the last four years has been constantly discussed in the country, and has occupied the mind of the country—a question which is ripe—indeed, over-ripe—for settlement. This question of religious teaching in elementary schools has been discussed and re-discussed, and although there may be hesitation as to the particular modes and methods of applying the principle underlying the Bill, on the principle itself not only have the minds of politicians been for the most part fixed and made up, but it is not too much to say that the country has pronounced its verdict upon it. The House of Commons is, therefore, to an extent most unusual in cases of measures of the kind, equipped and informed, and in all respects competent to give its conclusions without prolonged delay. We can claim, without in the slightest degree disparaging the importance of the Bill, that it is not a measure for which an unlimited amount of discussion would be justified, if we are to have any regard to the efficiency of Parliament in the discharge of the duties for which Parliament, after all, exists. If the discussion on the Bill must inevitably be restricted—and does any one doubt that it must be restricted ?—has any one attended the debates during the last few weeks without knowing that such restriction must be applied ? If it is to be done I pass to the question—What course must be taken in order to accomplish that restriction ? There are two courses open. We might with a fair show of patriotic patience allow the proceedings in Committee to drift along from day to day, and from week to week, unimpeded, while trifling, unimportant details are being exhaustively discussed, and then, at last, we might be forced to interfere and arrest discussion, with the consequence that most important matters are either slurred over or decided upon without being considered at all. The other course is this—that when the Bill has been long enough before the Committee to let us see what the tendency and character of the debates are likely to be, we should take a calm survey of the work which the proper consideration of the Bill involves, and estimating the comparative value of each of its provisions, and the different clauses and the different Amendments as best we may, allot to them and to their discussion and amendment such time as their respective importance would seem to justify. That is the course which we are following; and I venture to claim for it that it is at once the fairest from the point of view of the critics and opponents of the Bill, and also the most likely to redound to the business-like transaction of the work of the Committee on the Bill, and to the production of the most effective measure. I do not disguise that I intensely dislike these irregular interferences with the full liberty of debate, for irregular they are so long as they are on their present footing. I should be very foolish if I were to attempt to disguise that fact, because I should have acts and words of my own thrown at me the moment I did so. But, surely, the day has gone by when questions such as this are to be dealt with by mere *tu quoque* across the floor of the House. [Laughter.] I think that those who laugh will find that, while I objected to the manner in which the thing was done, I never denied that a Government were justified in taking some such course. These interferences are necessary in the absence of any considered and systematic and established method of ordering the course of business. Who can deny that they are necessary ? For my part I believe that the difficulty of finding what I call a well-ordered and established course of proceeding in a case such as this is not so great as we have sometimes thought; and as we have begun the discussion and amendment, in many particulars, of the procedure of the House of Commons, I hope that we may be able, when we have dealt with the matters immediately in hand at present, to propose a means of escape from the irregular and somewhat autocratic expedients, an example of which I am now submitting to the House. I prefer that it should not be left to the Government of the day to parcel out the time of discussion in Committee, or estimate the importance of this or that clause, or this or that Amendment, and I look forward to the time when the House will accept some proposal to refer the matter to a tribunal composed of its own Members, of such authority and unquestionable impartiality that its decisions will earn the ready acceptance of all parties and sides in the House. But at present we can only use the instrument we have to hand, we can only follow the course which is open to us; and therefore I submit with confidence to the House that the present is a case in which interference is necessary. If the scheme that we submit in my Resolution is adopted, it will only just permit of this Bill passing to the other House of Parliament in the latter days of July; so that any considerable delay or departure from the scheme, which would involve the expenditure of a larger amount of time, would throw us into August, and thus impair the advantage of the autumn recess; and I trust that, having regard for its own reputation as a business assembly, the House will accept the scheme which it is now my duty to propose.

Motion made and question proposed, "That the Committee stage and Report stage of the Education (England and Wales) Bill, including the Financial Resolution relating thereto, shall be proceeded with in the following manner:—(*a*) That the remaining part of Clause 2 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the first allotted day; (*b*) That Clause 3 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day; (*c*) That three allotted days be given, if required, to Clauses 4 and 5 and the Committee stage of the Financial Resolution, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days; (*d*) That Clauses 6 and 7 and the Report stage of the financial resolution be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day; (*e*) That three allotted days be given, if required, to Clauses 8 to 13 and any Motion which may be made to leave out Part II. of the Bill, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days; (*f*) That two allotted days be given, if required, to Part III. of the Bill, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the second of these allotted days; (*g*) That Part IV. of the Bill be proceeded with, and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion, on the next allotted day; (*h*) That the remaining Clauses of the Bill and the Schedules, and any new Government Clauses, and any new Government Schedules, and any other matter necessary to bring the Committee stage to a conclusion, be proceeded with and brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day; (*i*) That three allotted days be given to the Report stage of the Bill, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days. After this Order comes into operation, any day shall be considered an allotted day for the purposes of this Order on which the Education (England and Wales) Bill is put down as the first Order of the Day. A Motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown to leave out Part II. of the Bill, or to leave out any Clause of the Bill, before the consideration of any Amendments to that Part or Clause in Committee. The Question on a Motion moved by a Minister of the Crown to leave out Part II. of the Bill or to leave out any Clause of the Bill shall be put forthwith by the Chairman or Speaker without debate. At 10.30 p.m. on any allotted day on which proceedings on any allotted business are to be brought to a conclusion, or if the day is a Friday, at 4.30 p.m., the Chairman or Speaker shall if those proceedings have not already been brought to a conclusion put forthwith the Question or Questions on any Amendment or Motion already proposed from the Chair and shall next proceed successively to put forthwith the Question on any Amendments moved by the Government of which notice has been given (but no other Amendments), and on every Question necessary to dispose of the allotted business to be concluded, and in the case of Government Amendments or of Government new Clauses or Schedules, he shall put only the Question that the Amendment be made or that the Clause or Schedule be added to the Bill, as the case may be. At 11 p.m. on the day on which the Third Reading of the Bill is put down as first Order, or, if that day is a Friday, at 5 p.m., the Speaker shall put forthwith any Question necessary to conclude the proceedings on that stage of the Bill. Proceedings to which this Order relates shall not on any allotted day on which proceedings on any allotted business are to be brought to a conclusion under this Order, be interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House. After the passing of this Order, on any day on which any proceedings on the Education (England and Wales) Bill stand as the first Order of the day, no dilatory Motion on the Bill nor Motion for Adjournment under Standing Order 10, nor Motion to postpone a Clause, shall be received unless moved by a Minister of the Crown, and the Question on any such Motion shall be put forthwith without debate. Any Private Business which is set down for consideration at 8.15 p.m. on any allotted day, or on the day on which the Third Reading of the Bill is put down as first Order, shall, instead of being taken on that day as provided by the Standing Order "Time for taking Private Business," be taken after the conclusion of the proceedings on the Bill for that day, and any Private Business, so taken may be proceeded with though opposed, notwithstanding the Standing Order "Sittings of the House."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): I think nobody who listened to the speech of the Prime Minister will be disposed to deny that the promise he made in his first sentence has been fully and amply kept. He told us that he meant to be concise, and concise his statement certainly was. But I venture to suggest it was conciseness purchased by the adoption of the simple expedient of never approaching the real matter at issue between the two sides of the House, or justifying in the slightest degree a departure from the practice of this House, which the right hon. Gentleman admits to be in itself regrettable, which he says, to my great surprise, he did not object to in principle, or oppose when it was moved by another Government, and which everybody hitherto has regarded as requiring ample and detailed justification on the part of those who proposed it. What did the right hon. Gentleman say? He made a eulogy of autumn sessions. I do not propose at the present time to discuss whether our Parliamentary labours could be better distributed annually so as to leave clear August, September, and, I hope, part of October—though October was a month wholly ignored by the right hon. Gentleman—all the rest of the year, I presume, being occupied with legislative labours; or whether the traditional method of carrying on our business with all its objections would not be best. The right hon. Gentleman himself is aware that to make the change which Sir George Trevelyan proposed would involve an enormous alteration in our ordinary national machinery of government. It would require a change in a great many statutes, and would, I believe, carry with it of necessity an alteration of the financial year of the country, entailing a fundamental alteration in all our statistics. That may be a good or a bad plan; it has much to recommend it; but it would be very difficult to carry out. It is open to one objection which the right hon. Gentleman is especially in a position to understand. If the Government is never to have any months free from the daily burden of Parliamentary responsibility, the time they can utilise for the quiet and laborious consideration of the very difficult problems which they have taken in hand will be very seriously curtailed. I doubt whether that will conduce to sound legislation. Though that subject occupied quite half of the right hon. Gentleman's speech, it is not the subject we are here to-day to discuss. The question is whether the Government have given adequate time for the Committee, Report, and Third Reading stages of the Education Bill. The fact that the Government mean to ask the House to assemble after August and September seems to me not so much a reason for hurrying on the consideration of this Bill as a reason why decent time should be afforded us for its consideration. When, after thirty-eight days in debate, the Education Bill of 1902 was brought to a termination by a closure resolution, that Resolution was so framed that a House which had sat from February, with brief intervals, should be able to finish its labours before Christmas. That was a motive, not the sole motive, but an adequate motive for asking the House to expedite its business. But to come to us in June and say the Government mean to have an autumn session, and that we must therefore now put on the gag——

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The gag?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Well, the closure—that surely is the greatest legislative *non sequitur* which was ever propounded from the Treasury Bench. The right hon. Gentleman does not appear in the least to appreciate what are the objections to his measure, not based on considerations of Parliamentary tradition, but on the necessities of this Bill. I agree with the right hon. Gentleman both in deprecating the necessity of such closure resolutions as this and in admitting that closure resolutions are occasionally necessary. No Government can allow its principal measure of the session to be defeated merely by lapse of time. The debate might be legitimate, it might run counter to no rule, and yet it might be so prolonged that the Government would find, after months of arduous labour, that they had accomplished nothing, and must begin the task again in the succeeding session. I do not quarrel with the right hon. Gentleman because he thinks that part of our machinery, to be used on rare and exceptional occasions, must consist of closure resolutions. I go further, and say that, looking at the thing as a question of abstract propriety of procedure, I do not lay down as an absolute rule that these closure resolutions should not be moved at a relatively early stage of the Bill under discussion. That carries, however, as a corollary that in the resolutions thus laid down at an early stage—and we have only been six days in Committee—time should be given by the Government, who have our proceedings in the hollow of their hand, adequately to discuss all the proposals they submit to us. They are bound also to assist our discussions by making those proposals clear and unambiguous. Neither of these conditions is fulfilled on the present occasion. They have not given us adequate time to discuss the various clauses of this Bill. Both the policy which it is intended to advocate and the Amendments which the Government propose to introduce are still obscure and unknown. We are asked to closure, not a Bill we know, but a Bill regarding which as yet the Government, either because they do not know it themselves, or for some other reason, have carefully abstained from giving us adequate information. I want to argue this in a business manner. Consider what the suggestion of the Government is. I will take first a part of the Bill which does not deal with the religious difficulty at all, or only in a very secondary and indirect manner. To Part III. of the Bill two days only are allowed. That part deals with a series of complicated problems in local government which touch the local administration in every area of the country and raise questions of the utmost difficulty. I will mention one or two. The term of borrowing of local authorities is extended by a Government which is horrified at a system of loans, especially at a system of extended loans when they are Imperial in character. Not content with that great change in our local government system, the Government abolish the limitation of the 2d. rate for secondary education. The 2d. rate may possibly have been an improper limitation, but it is a limitation which those interested in local economy regard as of great importance. They know that the amount which an enthusiastic education authority can spend on education is almost unlimited, and, however valuable may be the results of such expenditure, they think the 2d. rate is an important safeguard of public finance, and ought not to be abolished after a discussion of two days, so much of which will be occupied by matters of almost equal importance. As if that were not enough for two days there is the abolition of the register for teachers, the reversing of a policy deliberately adopted by Parliament, which has been carried to great lengths at a cost of great labour on the part of experts. That change, too, ought not to be made except after full discussion. Finally, there is a clause with the intentions of which I personally have the greatest sympathy. It is a clause a subsection of which gives power for the making of such arrangements as may be sanctioned by the Board of Education for attending to the health and physical condition of the children educated in public elementary schools. That, I suppose, includes gratuitous feeding of school-children out of the rates and may include other proposals of a far-reaching character, and about which we have no information concerning what the Government desire. The Government propose to deal with that, along with the other subjects of which I have spoken, in two days. That is derisory. If the Government brought in a separate Bill to deal with the topics touched on in Part III., they would no more dare to say that the

the Committee stage of such a measure should be restricted to two days than they would imitate Oliver Cromwell and order that bauble to be removed. That is a non-religious, and therefore relatively uncontroversial, part of the Bill. The same may be said of finance. We know nothing about the Government finance of this measure. The hon. Gentleman the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education made an amiable speech the other night, but he threw no light upon it; and there is not a man in this House who really knows on what principle the Government are going to distribute the million of money, or has the smallest idea of what the policy of the Government is with regard to a fair rent for voluntary schools. That is a point which the Government must have considered. They must have plenty of typical cases of Church of England, Wesleyan, or Roman Catholic schools which they have considered. They must have considered whether a school bound down by trust deeds to give religious education according to some denomination, which has spent so much on its buildings, whose buildings would take such and such a sum to replace—whether the owners of such schools are not entitled probably to such and such a rent per child in average attendance. They must have considered the point, but they have never given us a hint of what they are going to do. They have protested to their Nonconformist friends that, as these schools are held under trust, the amount of money to be paid must needs be trifling and that they are to be got on the cheap. They have suggested to the Church of England that a full and fair remuneration will be given by the local authority. They have played to each side in turn, but they have not told the House of Commons what their plan is. Can we be asked, or expected, to deal with finance in an hour or two until we know what, in truth, the Government plan is? Then there is Part IV., which, as hon. Members know, gives administrative Home Rule to Wales in educational matters. That subject, which touches not only education, not only the rights of minorities in Wales, but also the very essence of our constitutional practice—that clause is to be dealt with in one day. It is not even as if the clause was, or was intended to be, a complete account of the designs of the Government. We do not know what the designs of the Government are. We know they mean to amend the clause, because, through one of those unauthorised channels which are the favourite method by which the Government indicate their attentions to the House of Commons, the author of this particular Bill has announced that he is prepared so to modify it that controversial matter may be excluded from the purview of the new administrative and rating authority which it is supposed to create. But nobody knows how that is to be done. I have great doubt if it can be done, and in any case we have nothing but the bare canvas with a few charcoal lines rudely sketched upon it, which the House of Commons is intended to fill up in the course of the single sitting to be devoted to the subject. Can that be regarded as sufficient? The Government have not told us, but they have told the people of Northampton that they mean to drop Part IV. I gather from the Resolution, not only that they do not intend to drop Part IV., but that if the Resolution is carried, it will prevent them from doing so. It is ludicrous to ask the House to discuss Part IV. in one day. It makes our Parliamentary proceedings an utter absurdity, and I should have thought that the best plan would be to allow Part IV. to follow Part II., and to devote the day that was to be devoted to its discussion to the other parts of the Bill. This clause leaves almost everything to an Order in Council. Are they going to lay that Order in Council before they proceed to consider Part IV? If not, we shall be in absolute darkness. We know that it confers on county councils in Wales enormous powers, that it involves three sets of inspectors, and that it removes from Parliament all control over the money the taxpayers of England, Scotland, and Ireland vote. How these enormous powers are limited, how they can be exercised—on all these subjects the Government keep us in darkness, either because they themselves are walking in darkness or because they think that the less the House of Commons know the greater chance there will be of passing their proposals. I come now to Clauses 3, 4, and 5, for which, I think, in all four days are allowed, in which four days is to be included the consideration of the financial Resolution

I would remind the House that these clauses have their analogue in what are now, I think, Clauses 6 and 7 of the Act of 1902. Those were the clauses which arranged for the control of voluntary schools and for the assistance given them out of the rates. They undoubtedly aroused feelings of strong animosity among certain sections of the community; but, after all, they took away nothing from anybody. They might have been right or they might have been wrong—I think they were right—but, at all events, they were not part of a scheme for taking away from a single individual or a section of the community, or any body of trustes, anything they possessed. But these Clauses 3, 4, and 5 are part of a scheme by which you take away from the trustees or managers of every voluntary school and from the parents of every child in every district where there is a voluntary school something which they have always enjoyed and for which, under these clauses, I suppose you mean to give some return. You give less than four days for the discussion of these three clauses. What did the House of Commons do for the corresponding clauses in the Act of 1902? They took nearly twenty days. Day after day, week after week, the house was allowed to discuss—and properly allowed to discuss — those matters which aroused such burning interest in every section of the community; and why, Sir, are those who made the country ring with their denunciations of the tyranny exercised by the late Government in the House of Commons—why are they coming down to this House and, in connection with clauses which, believe me, arouse every bit as much animosity in the country as Clauses 6 and 7 of the Act of 1902 ever did, allowing instead of twenty days only a paltry four days? I cannot imagine the right hon. Gentleman with the memory of his own speeches before him—if he has any memory for his own speeches—coming down and making this proposal to the House. It was after we had been thirty-six days in Committee that he begged us to go over Christmas and allow the Bill of 1902 to go through without any closure Resolution. And now he comes down and suggests a course which the most tyrannical of his predecessors never would have suggested for an instant. I am not sure that the Government fully realise how deeply we on this side of the House feel the difficulties they have gratuitously brought upon us by keeping us in ignorance of the real character of their proposals. In regard to Clause 4, we do not know whether it is to be mandatory or not. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education told my right hon. friend the Member for Oxford University that he was not going to put his new Amendment on the Paper until we had finished with Clause 6, because he did not know what form it would take until we had finished Clauses 3 and 4. But how are we to discuss Clauses 3 and 4 before we know the form of the Amendment? Are we to be perpetually referring to hypothetical propositions and vague suggestions when the right hon. Gentleman has the Amendment in his pocket but will not give it us lest we should discuss Clauses 3 and 4 in the full light of the Government plan? Is not that a bitter aggravation of the limits of debate the Government are imposing on us? Is it justified by Parliamentary practice, by usage, or by common sense? Surely we have a right —surely a minority whom it is proposed thus to bind and restrict, have a right to know what are the proposals which you are going to force them to accept? We do not know them. I do not know that the Prime Minister knows them. I am sure we do not, and how, therefore, can we submit silently to having only three days given to the Report stage, when part of that time will be occupied by the discussion of this new Amendment and all consequential Amendments which flow from it? I am one of those who think that the aim of Ministers in this House should be to give as much latitude as possible on the Committee stage of a Bill; but I should not object so much to the restriction of our liberty on the Report stage, which includes the discussion of some matters already dealt with in Committee. But on the Report stage if we exclude matters already debated three days must be inadequate for any debate which starts from this new proposal of the Government, at present unknown, but which must entirely revolutionise Clause 8, and profoundly affect the Welsh Home Rule clause. It is absurd to expect us to discuss that, with all the matters that must arise on the Report stage, within the limits of three days. How can you justify it?

The Government have also put in a sentence in this Resolution which enables them to drop any portion of the Bill at their own will without amendment or debate. I have always held that our existing rules require amendment on this point. I have always held that the arrangement which made it possible for the House to occupy itself for days over a clause which it was intended to drop after a discussion was a very unbusinesslike proceeding, and might lead to a great waste of time; but I have never suggested in my wildest moments that any promoter of a Bill or any Government should be allowed to drop any portion of their proposals, and should be enabled to put the question to the vote without any one having a say in the matter. Under the powers taken by the Government they may come down any afternoon and say that they mean to drop Clause 4, requiring the Speaker to put the question from the Chair, and not a single hon. Member would be able to raise a word of protest either on the Committee stage or on the Report stage. He can only make something like a valid protest when the stage of Third Reading is reached. This is a tyrannical and unnecessary procedure. The words in the Resolution which give these enormous powers must be excised if only as a matter of precedent. It would never do for the House to accept a proposition stating not only that the powers of the promoters of a Bill should be enormously extended, but that they might move to drop certain parts of their proposals without a word of objection being heard. I think it is ludicrous, and I hope the Government will reconsider this subject. There is another point connected with the argument let fall by the right hon. Gentleman as to the excuse for this proposal, and which he himself regarded with a great deal more justification than he had time or inclination to devote to it. The right hon. Gentleman says that this Bill has been so much discussed in the country, it is so thoroughly understood, that the House really need not exercise its full rights of debate. We have what is commonly called—though I am glad that the right hon. Gentleman refrained from using the phrase—an implied mandate for it, and the fact that there is a mandate absolves the House from the minute examination of principles which is otherwise obligatory upon it. That is not constitutional law; neither is it constitutional practice nor constitutional wisdom; and besides it is inapplicable. The Government are of opinion that they have been told by the country to bring in a Bill of a certain character. I do not know what that Bill is. After listening to the hon. Member for Mid. Glamorganshire, the character of the Bill he was required to bring in was a measure to give full power to the local authority to decide whether or not denominational education should be given in the area. That is not the view of the right hon. Gentleman, for he has promised an Amendment that destroys that view altogether. There are hon. Members, and there is Dr. Clifford outside, who hold that the country declared that no rates should be applied in support of denominational education. That was one of the mandates given; but it is not accepted by the Government. They have adopted Clause 4, which in plain terms makes it possible for a minority to have to pay these rates in support of denominational education. Which is the mandate? The third mandate of the country was that there should be no test for teachers, and the Government have interpreted that mandate by putting in a clause which forbids certain things with regard to the teachers which have never been done and never will be done. So that according to the Government the mandate of the country was simply a beating of the wings *in vacuo*. Other persons interpreted the mandate of the country to mean that teachers should not have any question asked with regard to their religious convictions; but the Government say that the question should be asked. With all these ambiguities, therefore, as to what the view of the country was, is it not idle for the right hon. Gentleman to say that the country has so carefully considered this matter, that its opinion has been given so clearly, that the House may absolve itself from the labour which in ordinary circumstances would fall upon it of considering in turn each detail of the Government proposals? I cannot believe that when the right hon. Gentleman considers the arguments which I have marshalled before him, some drawn from the details of the Bill, and some drawn from broader and wider considerations, he will fail to see that his proposal is open to severe condemnation by all those who have the desire of leading the House in the interest of liberty of discussion. I do not wish to quote the right hon. Gentleman's words against him or to drag up any admissions or statements he may have made; but surely I am justified in saying of one speech at all events there might be a common measure of propriety applied to these discussions, whether in Opposition or in power. When the right hon. Gentleman in Opposition implied that the time taken over the Education Act of 1902 was not unduly extended, when he had no word of comment or reproach in connection with the twenty days spent on Clauses 6 and 7, when he remembers how he begged, even after thirty-six days, that the closure we proposed might yet be extended, surely he will feel that more than the ordinary margin of deviation between that which he thinks legitimate when in Opposition and that which he thinks desirable when in power has in this case been overpassed, and that when he has behind him an obedient majority he is requiring the House to adopt principles of practice which he himself vehemently repudiated when he was in a position of less responsibility. He has changed his opinions, and many of us in the course of twenty-five years have been obliged to change our opinions with regard to the rules by which the House is to be governed. Even if in the last three years he has changed his opinions, well and good; but I do not understand that he has. I understand that he professes to stand where he did three years ago; and therefore he ought to apply the same principles now as he applied three years ago. He is requiring of his present opponents a degree of subserviency, an amount of silent acquiescence which he would never have tolerated for himself and his friends. He is applying a wholly different measure of justice, equity, and propriety in our proceedings never before sought to be applied when he was in a position of less responsibility. That does not add to the dignity of our procedure in this House. Many times have I, when I sat on the benches opposite, laid down the rule that no man ought in power to vote for a proposition which in opposition he thought might be inequitable; and I have endeavoured to carry that principle out. I do not discuss the position of the right hon. Gentleman because he thinks that this Bill is one which requires exceptional means to deal with it. It may be that he is right; but he has lost a great opportunity of finding, as he has already found, that on principle the Opposition are not irreconcilably opposed to his views. He might have started a precedent which would show that the majority was not incapable of justice to those who were opposed to them. He might have given us a limit of time which all reasonable men would have felt to be adequate for the discussion even of a Bill of this kind. Has he done so? Has any man seriously held that he has tried to do so? He has talked about the holidays, the autumn session, the glories of the country in August and September. Excellent topics, but there is something more important than these. It is that when the majority set themselves to the delicate and difficult task of limiting the amount of debate which they are going to allow to the minority they should do so in a spirit of justice. They should endeavour to mete out the amount of time not merely to their own momentary convenience but to the necessities of the case. Hon. Members opposite should insist that the Government which they support should make themselves clear as to the character of the measure they are bringing before the House. The Government and the majority have shown themselves, as I think, quite unequal to that great responsibility, because they have deliberately chosen to use the power which numbers give them to oppress and to restrict legitimate debate. I think they must be counted among those who have contributed to the degradation of this House. For no adequate reason, on no principle which they themselves have been able to state, they are preventing those from whom they differ from laying their alternative principles before the House or adequately criticising the proposals of the Government These are the reasons which seem to me to justify the Amendment. I hope the Government, even if they cannot wholly carry out the policy I recommend, will, at all events, admit that a case has been made out for relaxing somewhat the bands by which they have endeavoured to tie us, and will diminish to some extent by such concession the force of criticisms which from any other point of view are wholly unanswerable.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, to leave out all the words after the word 'That,' and to insert the words 'this House objects to a proposal which unduly limits the time allowed for the discussion in the House of Commons of a measure which is burdensome both to the taxpayer and the ratepayer, is unjust to the parents of children attending voluntary schools, and subsidising one form of religious instruction at the expense of the whole community.'"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the end of line 5, stand part of the Question."

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): Those who sat in the last House of Commons must admit there is something ironical in the way in which fortune or political vicissitudes have distributed the parts this afternoon. I have in days gone by used probably as strong language as anybody against this form of proceeding. I entertain quite as fully as others the objections to these recurring inroads by the more or less arbitrary action of the Government of the day upon the freedom of our debates. I entirely share the views expressed by my right hon. friend that if we are to transact our business efficiently there must be a due allotment of time between the different parts of a measure, and that the instrument or organ by which the allocation should be made should not be the Government of the day, but some independent tribunal whose impartial judgment every part of the House would be ready to accept. But I must add that I think that these inroads—and no one has made more than the right hon. Gentleman opposite during the last Parliament—were much more acutely felt inside than outside the walls of this House. I have tried to the best of my ability to arouse from public platforms the popular indignation against these arbitrary proceedings on the part of the right hon. Gentleman; but I always found that even in cases like the Education Bill, where the popular feeling was very strongly engaged against the Government, there was a feeling outside that the time of the House was wasted in dilatory discussion of unimportant matters, and they could not complain if the Government of the day, anxious to push on the business, used its authority from time to time to cut short the flow of speech and to curtail the liberty of debate. The right hon. Gentleman made two admissions which are quite sufficient to carry us to day. In the first place, he admits that under our existing rules a proceeding of this kind must from time to time be resorted to; and next, he made the further admission that it was desirable, if this machinery of closure is to be resorted to, it should be at an earlier stage, in order that something like due proportion should be maintained between those parts which are relatively important and those which are relatively trivial. It is for that reason we have introduced this Motion at this stage, when the Bill has been six days in Committee. The right hon. Gentleman told us that his own Bill of 1902 was thirty-eight days in Committee before he resorted to the closure. But a considerable number of those days were not full days, and a careful analysis will show that we had only been twenty-nine full days in Committee when the right hon. Gentleman proposed his closure Resolution. And what did he propose to do? He proposed to assign for the remainder of the Committee stage six days, and six days only. We are giving thirteen. The right hon. Gentleman is very indignant that we are only giving three days for Report, although he only gave three and a half days. But I demur to any analogy between the proceedings on the Bill of 1902 and the present Bill. The Government of 1902 brought in only two years after the general election of 1900, when there was not an elector in the country ever dreamt of legislation of the kind, a Bill to disestablish the school boards, and to quarter the whole of the denominational schools upon the rates—a most revolutionary proposal. Whatever may be said about the details of the present Bill, there is not a single man who has been engaged in political controversy during the last four years who does not know that as regards the main, fundamental, underlying principles of the Bill, they have been the subject of endless discussion and have received the emphatic endorsement of a large majority of the electorate. It is absolutely impossible to apply the same measure of discussion to the proceedings on two Bills so totally different in their origin and character. The discussions which have already taken place on this Bill have settled important principles.

We have established after long debate by Clause 1 that all schools hereafter shall be under popular control. That is the very root and foundation of the whole Bill. We have next established—after debate equally exhaustive—the principle that in all provided schools in future the secular system is not to prevail—that is to say, the local authority is not to be prohibited from giving religious teaching, and that religious teaching in accordance with the Cowper-Temple clause is to be permissive in those schools. Those are two very far-reaching principles established. I do not deny that certain controversial elements remain; but the main points outstanding are in regard to facilities, the terms on which facilities should be granted, the position of the teacher, and the relation of the religious teaching to the curriculum of the school so far as school hours are concerned. These are really the main outstanding controversial points; and I do not think that anyone who has any sense of proportion, and who estimates the amount of time given to the discussion of the two first principles, will deny that we are giving on that basis adequate time for the discussion of those outstanding principles. But there are other precedents than the Bill of 1902. What about the Licensing Bill of 1904? And let me remark that the importance of a Bill and its controversial character is not to be measured by the number of its clauses, by the amount of paper it covers, but by the importance of its provisions and the degree of hostility and criticism which it excites. Judged by that standard, you have rarely had in this House a more controversial measure than the Licensing Bill of 1904. How was it dealt with? The Bill had been in Committee four and a half days when the right hon. Gentleman brought forward his closure Resolution which gave us four days more to the discussion of the whole of the remainder of that Bill. That Bill, which, like the Education Bill of 1902, will necessarily lead to a large measure of reversal—that Bill, under the right hon. Gentleman's own guidance, was discussed for only eight and a half days, and two days more on Report. Another Bill of equal importance, which gave rise to serious constitutional difficulties in the following year, was the Aliens Bill of 1905. There we were allowed three days in Committee before the guillotine was applied, and then Clauses 1 to 10 and the financial Resolution, practically the whole of the Bill, were allowed two days for discussion, and no more, and the Report one and a half days. I think the House will agree that, when we are allowing thirteen additional days for the Committee stage, three days for Report, and one day for Third Reading, if we are to be judged by the precedents the right hon. Gentleman has set, we are behaving with a liberality which the late Government did not dream of extending to the House of Commons. These are the main, the governing considerations which have actuated the Government in this matter. We think it is only fair to the House of Commons that at the earliest possible stage it should have an opportunity of calmly considering the relative degrees of importance, and the time that should be given to the different provisions of the Bill. Having regard to the discussion which has taken place in the country and the House, the twenty-eight days which, if our Resolution is carried, this Bill will have occupied in proceeding through the House of Commons will, we think, be adequate to ensure full ventilation and criticism of all its provisions. It will have this additional and most desirable result, that when we reassemble after the adjournment for the autumn recess the House of Lords will be free at leisure to discuss the various provisions of the Bill, while we shall be able to take up the other important matters of legislation which during the present year the Government are fully determined to pass.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) said he did not wish to indulge in those recriminations which perhaps more became those sitting on the front benches than one who sat on the back benches. He would give the House one or two reasons why he objected to this Resolution. No charge of obstruction had been made, and if they surveyed the proceedings on this Bill in Committee the Opposition had a clean sheet so far as obstruction was concerned. There had been during the Committee stage two long debates, but they took place upon Motions made by supporters of the Government. One of those debates was a very useful one, but it should not be overlooked that it was carried on largely by Ministerialists, and resulted in considerable concessions being made by the Minister for Education. Therefore so far as obstruction was concerned there was no case at all. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that the main purpose of the Bill of 1902 was not the improvement of education, but the establishment of denominational teaching, that one denomination was to be quartered on the rates for religious purposes and the atmosphere of that one religious sect was to be called national. In this Bill they had an exact replica of those views, because nobody could deny that under Clause 4 the atmosphere of one religious sect was to be maintained, although they did not hear so much about this at the last election. The *tu quoque* argument was not always acceptable, but it was valuable to the Opposition when they were likely to secure the support of anyone sitting on the Ministerial side of the House. The Under-Secretary for India was not in his place, but in a speech made when the late Prime Minister proposed a similar Closure Resolution he stated that as long as he was a Member of the House of Commons he would never vote for such a Motion. That was a valuable admission, and he hoped to receive the right hon. Gentleman's support upon this occasion. The Government entered upon this session with a large legislative programme fully aware of the limits of Parliamentary time, and in putting forward a scheme of this kind dealing with education they should have consulted not only their own followers, but others as to the proper allocation of time to be given to such a large measure. That certainly would have mitigated the opposition which they felt bound to offer in connection with this particular Resolution. His opinion was that practically the whole of the ground for this Resolution had been whittled away to one particular point, and that was that if the Government allowed for discussion the period that was really necessary there would not be sufficient time before the recess which must commence at the beginning of August. If that was the case there was a very easy method by which the Government could attain their object. Probably there was sufficient time to finish Part I., upon which the Government claimed they had obtained the mandate of the country at the general election. That was the Part which had commanded the attention of the House in the debates on the First Reading, the Second Reading, and during the Committee stage, and if the Government would agree to drop Parts II., III. and IV. there would be ample time to discuss Part I. before the recess. There were some far-reaching questions involved in Part IV., as it broke up the new educational authorities which had only just got to work, and divided others into separate bodies. There were certain delegations of powers to other authorities which involved very important issues, and all these questions were to be settled without any previous discussion and without any knowledge of what was in the mind of the Government, according to this Closure Resolution, in two days. These were not so much matters of controversy, but surely they were questions for amendment and consideration. Hon. Members were under very great disadvantages in the discussions because all through the debates so far they had had conciliatory speeches and gentle words. Nevertheless, they had not had any idea of what actually was to be the policy followed by the Government in reference to the great questions still in dispute. They had been obliged to prolong the debates during the earlier stages because of the impossibility of obtaining the information they desired. Coming events, they were told, cast their shadows before, and by the introduction of this Resolution they might be able to detect that Clause 6 was not so popular, because it was connected with Clause 7, and both clauses were to be dealt with in a comparatively short time. It was very desirable that they should know whether the Government intended to adhere to Clause 6. Could it be that the whole question of the teachers was to be relegated to a second place? Those who were interested in the cause of the teachers would not submit to that decision, and he was quite sure it would very much shorten debate and relieve the Opposition of some anxiety if they could be told the exact position of the Government on this question. They were only now being given slowly and by degrees information which the House ought to have had before entering upon the consideration of these important questions. On Saturday a Return was issued dealing with voluntary school trusts in the county of Kent. They were told that a partial Return with reference to the syllabus had at last been placed with the officers of the House. They were not told who were to form the Commission of three under Clause 8. All these were matters on which it was essential to have information if the Bill before the House was to be properly discussed. He thought, therefore, they were justified in taking exception to the very unusual course of proceedings in this matter, first, the declining to give information, and then the bringing forward of this Resolution, not on account of obstruction, or for any reason by which Governments in the past had proposed closure by compartments, but simply in order that hon. Gentlemen should have that holiday which they used to say was the chief object of the Conservative Party. The fact that there was to be an autumn session did away with the whole argument in regard to that particular difficulty. Having in view the immense importance of the questions raised by the Bill, and the fact that the debate had been carried on without the slightest taint of obstruction, he thought they might justly ask the Government to consider whether it would not ease matters to abandon all except Part I. of the Bill. If the Government were not prepared to do that they might consider whether further time could not be given for the discussion of the important clauses of the Bill.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said the Leader of the Opposition had given a delightful example of Satan reproving sin, in view of what he did in 1902. During the long discussion on the Bill of that year they ambled on for thirty-eight days in Committee on all sorts of trivial matters, and then the right hon. Gentleman came down to the House in a flurry and determined that the rest of the proceedings must be closured by compartments. He gave thirteen days for nine clauses which formed substantially the greater part of the Bill. Those clauses dealt with matters of the greatest educational moment, and there were in addition the schedules and the financial Resolution involving an expenditure of £1,800,000. There were proposed by the Government five new clauses which did not appear on the Paper till the last moment—clauses which dealt with management, endowments, finance, and grouping of schools, and entirely transformed the measure from what was originally proposed. The net result was that from November 11th, 1902, when they had more than half of the Bill still to dispose of, nothing was seriously discussed, and a great many matters of high educational moment were never mentioned at all. Therefore it did not lie with the Leader of the Opposition now to say that he did not know what the Government intended to do. The schedule of the 1902 Act repealed in whole or in part the legislation in regard to education of the previous thirty-two years, but it was never mentioned at all in the debates. He asked the House to compare the headlong manner in which they were compelled to dismiss matters of the greatest importance in 1902 with the businesslike scheme now before them. Two clauses of the present Bill had already been considered in Committee, and the Government, taking time by the forelock, had proposed a time table, the genius of which was to secure, at any rate, that some time should be given to every part of the Bill, though perhaps in the opinion of some hon. Gentlemen opposite the time allowed might not be adequate. He was bound to say that there were two features of the time table which were a little drastic, and he would ask the Prime Minister with great respect for reconsideration of his proposal in regard to these matters. Only one day was proposed to be given for Clauses 6 and 7 and the Report stage of the financial Resolution. The Report stage of the financial Resolution did not matter very much, but he ventured to say that one day was not enough for Clauses 6 and 7 if they were to be dealt with with due regard to the matters of public interest which each involved. Clause 6 introduced a great new principle in educational legislation. It said that no parent of a child attending a public elementary school should be under obligation to cause the child to attend during the time for religious instruction. There would be many opinions on both sides of the House in regard to that clause, and he should be surprised if the whole of the day was not given up to its discussion. Clause 7 provided that a teacher employed in a public elementary school should not give any religious instruction of a special character except under certain conditions. He entirely agreed with that, but it was a great new principle which required discussion. The clause also provided for a teacher who lost his employment by reason of the closing of a voluntary school being entitled to pay contributions to the deferred annuity fund during any time not exceeding one year, and to reckon the time in respect of which contributions were so made as if it were recorded service. That would not be discussed at all if not more than one day were given for Clauses 6 and 7. He asked the Government to make that part of the Resolution more elastic by the addition of another day for those clauses. He entirely associated himself with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition in regard to Part III., to which two days were to be given. The questions raised by Clauses 25, 26, 34, and 35 in Part III. all required careful consideration. If the Prime Minister would look into Part III. he might be induced to come to the conclusion that more than two days were required for its adequate discussion.

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton) said that this proposal was a matter of some interest to many on his side of the House. While they accepted with pleasure the recommendations made by the hon. Member for North Camberwell to the Prime Minister, it was a matter of surprise to hear the hon. Member speak as he had done of the manner in which the Bill of 1902 was dealt with in Committee. The hon. Member, speaking on the Closure Resolution then proposed by the present Leader of the Opposition, said—

> "Clauses 9, 10, and 11 were rushed through Committee in a way that could not be regarded as wise; Clause 9 was taken at one sitting after four applications of the closure; Clauses 10 and 11 were taken at one sitting after the closure had been applied three times."

The point he wished to make was that the present debate must to some extent be an unreal one, for the simple reason that they were discussing for the first time a perfectly novel principle, viz., whether in the future in the case of all important measures of a highly controversial nature they were going to have from the first stages of procedure a mechanical application of the closure. He had hoped that upon consideration of the proposals they would have had a considerable measure of support from hon. Gentlemen opposite. When the clause was first discussed, hon. Gentlemen got up one after another on the Ministerial Benches, and they on the Opposition side of the House had small opportunity of speaking because members of the Government rose and contradicted themselves. He could not help thinking that the right hon. Member the Under-Secretary for India and a large number of hon. Members opposite who had pledged themselves not to support this particular class of Resolution, but who had availed themselves very largely of the discussion hitherto, would support the Amendment now brought forward. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had told them that there were other considerations, and while he agreed with the right hon. Gentleman in deprecating too close an application to that method of reasoning, he would call attention to a striking observation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer made during the debates of 1902. The right hon. Gentleman at that time said that the procedure then proposed was inconsistent with the elementary rights and privileges of a debating assembly. If that were so in 1902 it must be so in 1906. The right hon. Gentleman then went on to say—

> "That such procedure ought not to be resorted to except in two cases. First, in a case of extreme emergency and in accordance with public order; or, secondly, in a case where the discussion in the country had rendered the question ripe for discussion in Parliament."

He did not think any member of the Opposition would say that the present Bill had been thoroughly discussed, or discussed at all, in the country. He did not wish to attempt once again to analyse the hydra-headed abstraction as to a mandate, but if it were discussed in the country he would remind the House of the description which the Prime Minister gave of the general character of the proposal which a Liberal Government would submit to Parliament. The Prime Minister said—

> "We want the children to be brought up in the faith of their fathers. The Liberal Party has but one object, viz., to secure freedom of conscience, equal treatment, and complete public control."

That was their mandate; not the present Bill. The Minister for Education, unless there should be any uncertainty, had contributed to a magazine an admirably expressed statement of his own educational views. The right hon. Gentleman had said, writing to the *Contemporary Review* that

> "Every three years they should consult the parents' wishes and really apply by voluntary effort religious instruction to the children in accordance with their wishes."

He would ask the House to mark also what followed—

> "By this means the Church Catechism would find its way into all schools, and board school Christianity would be taught in denominational schools."

But what was the mandate which they got from the country? The House would perhaps permit him to relate an experience that he had had. He was visiting a clergyman of the Church of England during the last election soliciting his support, and about whose views he was not certain. He called the clergyman's attention to the dangerous disparity between speeches delivered by an eminent member of the Liberal Party, viz., the right hon. Member for Stirling Burghs, and another eminent member of the Liberal Party at Bodmin. His discussion on Home Rule appealed to his rev. friend very little. Then he attempted to recall his rev. friend to the subject of voluntary schools. He said—

> "How about your schools. I understand the Liberal Party are threatening them?"

The clergyman replied—

> "You are mistaken. I have been in communication with the Minister for Education, and you do not know, but I know, his courage and his toleration. He puts down his foot and says 'Thus far and no further,' and all the Dissenters in the world would not make him go further."

His clerical friend adjured him to read the speeches of the Minister for Education before he came to canvass for votes. They were now told that the mandate for the Bill need not be discussed in the House because it had been discussed in the country, but he would call their attention to the statements made by the Minister for Education in his speech at Bristol. The right hon. Gentleman said—

> "My desire is, if it be possible, to discover a satisfactory solution of this religious difficulty which will enable the children who attend the elementary schools of the country to receive the religious instruction which their parents wish them to receive, upon the school premises. That would be, if it could be done, a remarkable accession to the freedom of religious teaching. If these rules came into operation they will be at liberty, at the expense of the denomination, to receive on the school premises—though attendance would not be compulsory—the religious instruction their parents wished them to receive."

In the face of that speech was it not idle for the Government to suggest that they had a mandate for this Bill, and that they had had a sufficient discussion on the clause before them? He had not failed to notice that the Minister for Education had been driven and directed by two commanding personalities, viz., the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education and the President of the Board of Trade. He should vote against the Resolution with considerable equanimity because he believed that the Government had taken one more step to make the passing of the measure in its present form impossible. Under the present limitation of time it was impossible that many of the parts of the Bill which were of vital importance to the denominational schools—even in those days when the closure was becoming a recognised part of the Parliamentary machinery—could be placed on the Statute-book when such parts had not received deliberate and detailed examination by Parliament.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said that if the Government had not intimated their intention to withdraw Part II. of the Bill he should have been obliged to draw attention to some of the defects in that portion of the measure. Confining his attention to Part III. he wished to say that it was his privilege some years ago to sit upon a Committee of this House upon the position of teachers. He felt deep regret that, after long and careful consideration of the clause relating to the education of teachers, it would not be possible to place the position of the teachers as to registration on a proper footing under this Bill. He wished to say one word as to Clause 35, which gave power to the Education Department to make arrangements for attending to the physical health and condition of the children. What was the position of this question? They had had a Bill on the subject read a second time, and it was now under the consideration of a Select Committee. That Committee had received evidence of the most valuable and interesting character and were finally deliberating upon the subject. Although their deliberations were not completed, the Government had now brought forward a Bill which dealt with this subject by one drastic clause. He agreed that certain clauses of the Education Bill of 1902 relating to finance were a blot upon it at the time that it was passed and were a blot upon it now, and he was not surprised that the Government should have thought it right to deal with the question of education. He did think, however, that they were not dealing satisfactorily with this particular question. The proposals were not satisfactory, and the question ought to be dealt with at a time when they had ample leisure to consider it and deal with it fully. The subject of devolution had been discussed by the County Councils Association in the country, and the power which it was proposed to confer was a most important one. He thought that some of the areas proposed were far too large to be handled satisfactorily by one authority. There must, he thought, be some provision for separating these great districts into separate areas, so that each area might be satisfactorily managed. This was a great and complicated question which dealt, not only with large areas, but with the character of population. In a former Act they dealt with the character of the population as well as its distribution, and he regretted that the closure was so severe on the present occasion that the questions which naturally arose could not be properly discussed. This clause would be hustled through Parliament without any opportunity of debate having been given. He was addressing the House quite apart from the theological question and upon a question which was purely educational and for the welfare of the people.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had endeavoured to whittle down from thirty-eight days to twenty-nine the period allowed by the Conservative Government for the discussion of the Education Bill of 1902 before the closure was applied, and had said that the closure which they put upon the Aliens Bill extended to only two days. The right hon. Gentleman, however, omitted to inform the House that the Aliens Bill passed its Second Reading without a division; therefore it seemed ridiculous to quote that Bill as a precedent applicable to the present case. The last Home Rule Bill, moreover, was not closured until the discussion upon it had proceeded for twenty-eight days. In this case they were face to face with one of the most important measures of the session, a measure affecting the education of the whole country, and the proposal was that it should be closured after ten or twelve days discussion. He did not think such a course would conduce to the dignity of Parliament or recommend the Government to the country, especially as it was apparent that the closure was being applied to a Bill as to which the House was absolutely ignorant of what many of its most vital provisions were to be. Yet in such a state of things the closure was to be applied. He was sorry that the Prime Minister was not in his place, because the right hon. Gentleman might obtain some useful information from speeches of his own in 1902, when he said—

> "We must certainly contemplate that there may be cases of extreme urgency which demand this somewhat violent interference with the rights of minorities."

The Prime Minister would admit that in this case there was a somewhat "violent interference with the rights of minorities." Upon that subject he had only to turn to a few objections which the President of the Board of Trade made on the same occasion. The President of the Board of Trade asked—

> "Is the Education Bill a case of urgency like the Crimes Act?"

And added—

> "The conditions underlying the Education Bill have been in existence for years and years."

Was it not to be said that the conditions underlying the present Bill also had been in existence for many years? The Prime Minister on the same occasion exclaimed—

> "Obstruction! Why I venture to say that never has a Party, regarding a measure as obnoxious, so single-mindedly done so much to improve it."

That was the statement of a Prime Minister who, three and a half years later, came forward with the present intensely despotic Resolution. Further, the Prime Minister said—

> "My contention is that a Bill of this character requires the fullest and freest discussion, because it is designed for a permanent settlement which affects closely the daily life of the people; it touches the conscience as well as political principle and opinion."

Did not the present Bill touch the conscience and opinion of the people? If that was the case, why were they not allowed the fullest and freest opportunity for discussion such as was contended for by the Prime Minister and the President of the Board of Trade in 1902? To his mind it was absolutely impossible for either of those right hon. Gentleman to justify his present attitude in view of the attitude which he took up in 1902. He thought the real reason why the Government had brought in this Motion was that they were afraid to amend their own Bill. Why did the hon. Member for North Hackney put down a very important Amendment to Clause 3 and subsequently withdraw it? There was much in that Amendment which Members of the Opposition would have supported, and showed that there was a greater feeling of fairness among followers of the Government than in the Government itself. Why did the Government bring pressure to bear upon some of their supporters to take away the only chance there was of coming to a settlement, and then bring in the closure? He protested against this procedure, which was certain to create great feeling in the country and to prevent this Bill becoming a final settlement of the education difficulty.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby) said he hoped right hon. Gentlemen on both Front Benches, for whose powers, experience and eloquence he had the profoundest respect, would forgive him if he confessed he had not been greatly impressed by the speeches on either side that day, for what they said was too much influenced by where they sat. He quite recognised the difficulty which any Government found in trying to pass great measures through the House. Sitting as he did however on the back benches he had an advantage over those on the Front Bench in being able to be consistent. He opposed the closure in the Aliens Bill, and he had seen no reason to change his view that closure by compartments was a thoroughly mischievous way of carrying legislation through the House. He was in a difficult position. He could not vote for the Amendment moved by the right hon. Gentlemen the Leader of the Opposition, but on the other hand he had made up his mind, as far as any one could do that in political life, that he would not vote for the closure by compartments. The effect of this closure by compartments had been uniformly bad. It was designed to keep his Irish friends in order, and it had never done that.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): No, no.

*MR. LEIF JONES said he was not imputing anything to his Irish friends, but it had failed in its purpose if that was its object. The effect also of the closure on the Minister in charge of the Bill was injurious. Up till now the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education had been, in the House, a courteous, learned Gentleman, with a broad outlook on all the problems of education presented to him. But when this Closure Resolution was carried he would be changed. He would no longer watch the progress of the Bill with the intention to improve it. He would sit with his eye on the clock waiting for the hands to go round for him to secure automatically the particular clause under discussion. He (Mr. Leif Jones) believed it to be pernicious to lay it down that at a given hour on a given day any particular clause or any particular stage of the Bill should be passed, and nothing had been said that day which had in the least changed his opinion. What was the effect of the closure on a Bill? It ceased to be amended. In the case of the Aliens Bill from the moment the Closure Resolution was passed there was an end to improvements in it. The Bill passed in the shape in which it was presented to the House by the Minister. The House of Commons were no longer giving to the country the best legislation they could. They were giving it the particular sort of legislation which the Government felt it could afford the time to pass. That was not their duty. When they took in hand an alteration of the education law they ought to make the new Eduation Bill the best Bill the House of Commons could produce. To do less than that was to fail in their duty to their constituents. Though they might not discuss measures in this House they would be discussed in the country. He remembered his hon. friend the Member for Cockermouth, who had been his political teacher in a good many ways—saying the House of Commons had its faults, but it was the only place he knew in the country where a question was thoroughly thrashed out from top to bottom. Who would say that of the House of Commons of the last twenty years? They had sacrificed their reputation and they no longer discussed fully all the clauses of the Bills they carried. What was the result of it? Time was not saved. They were closuring the Education Bill this session because the late Government closured their Education Bill in 1902; and next session, when they dealt with the licensing question, that Bill would be closured because the late Government closured their Licensing Bill. This new system, devised in the last twenty-five years, had utterly failed in its purpose, and he appealed to the Government to devise a better method of passing their legislation than by Closure Resolutions. He should vote against the Prime Minister's Motion. He did it with pain. He hated going into the "wrong" lobby, but at any rate he would keep a clear conscience in the matter and do what he could to pass the Education Bill in its very best shape.

*Mr. HART-DAVIES, (Hackney, N.) said that when he entered the House a few moments previously he heard the hon. Member for Aston Manor say that he (Mr. Hart Davies) had withdrawn his Amendment on Clause 3 from the Paper under the pressure of the Government. He wished to say he did nothing of the kind. He withdrew it because he had altered his opinion with regard to the masters giving religious education to the children. He had thought that the masters ought to have nothing to do with the religious education of the children. That was one reason for his withdrawing that Amendment. Another was that the whole matter had been thoroughly discussed on the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. He had always been in favour of the State favouring no religion at all. He thought it was the business of the Churches and the ministers of the Churches, and not of the State, to teach the children religion, and it was for that reason that he thought there ought to be only secular religion given by the State. It was for those reasons that he withdrew his Amendment and for no other. He should vote for the proposal of the Government. He thought seventeen days was quite sufficient for the discussion of this Bill, because when it came back from another place they would only have all the discussion over again.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said the answer to his hon. friend the Member for the Appleby Division was simple. He had heard the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition say some years ago that it was absolutely impossible for this House in one session to pass more than one great contested measure. That was the truth, and unless the House was content to limit its legislation there must be resort to something of this kind. Did the country really care whether the debates of this House were closured or not? In all his perigrinations through the country, on all the platforms on which he had spoken, he never got an atom of sympathy when he complained of these Closure Resolutions. The general opinion in the country was that it was a good thing that hon. Members of this House were shut up—that they talked too much and did too little. He thought the debates on Resolutions of this character were thoroughly unreal. He had voted on both sides. He voted long ago for the closure on the Crimes Bill, and he voted against the closure on the Home Rule Bill. He voted against the closure on the Education Act of 1902. In fact he had voted so often on both sides that it was very difficult to remember how he voted on each occasion. He had voted on both sides, but so had all old Members of the House. It depended upon which side of the House they sat, whether they voted for or against. The Leader of the House having brought in this Resolution, those sitting on the Opposition side would vote against it; but if it was brought in by the Leader of the Opposition they would support it. It was in his opinion very little use their wasting any further time discussing it.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) expressed surprise at some of the observations of the hon. Member for South Tyrone. The hon. Member would find himself quite mistaken if he thought the country was indifferent to this Motion. He should vote for the Amendment in respect to which, if there was any complaint, it was that it was not strong enough. He would have preferred that it should forth what he believed to be the true objection to this Bill, namely, that it offended the consciences of thousands of our fellow countrymen. He could not help feeling that hon. Members opposite had throughout these discussions under-estimated the importance of the Bill they intended to pass. It was a common observation that it had re-united the Church of England in opposition to this Bill. It had had an even more remarkable effect: it had re-united the Unionist Party. Hon. Members on the Ministerial Benches had been fond of indulging in observations about the disunion of the Unionist Party, but so far as he was concerned he should be prepared to assist the return of any tariff reformer who was opposed to the provisions of this Bill. He believed that the tariff reformers were as sincere in their opposition to this Bill as he was himself, and would, if necessary, sink their most cherished convictions in order to secure its rejection. At any rate, he should continue to believe that was the fact until something had convinced him it was not so. The truth was the Government had throughout misunderstood the character of the opposition to the Bill. He did not think they realised that some of the controversies which were raised by it were controversies which had agitated the whole of the civilised nations of the earth more or less for the last 500 years. Denominationalists were really the same as those who believed that it was only by membership of a definite community that the great ideals of Christian faith and conduct could in any degree be realised, and some at any rate of those who were opposed to the denominationalists were the same in essence as those who had fastened their attentions more upon what they considered to be the errors of the various churches than upon the great idea of membership of a community. In addition there were those who considered that religion was not part of the duty of the State and who would divorce all religious effort from State interference. Those three classes who all hoped or feared something from the provisions of the present Bill were the three classes between which the Government had undertaken, not indeed to find some settlement, but to find at any rate some *modus vivendi*; and in order to accomplish that Herculean task not six months or six years would have been improperly expended. Of course, he did not suggest that they could allow a Bill to last six years; but he did suggest that there should be free, full, and complete discussion upon the provisions of this Bill, and that everyone who represented the various schools of thought to which he had alluded should feel at the end of the discussion that their views had been properly set forth and properly considered. He did not regard the time spent on the Bill as having been in any way wasted. He gathered that the hon. Member for South Tyrone was one of those who regarded this House as a kind of gigantic sausage machine, into which so many Bills were put at one end by the Government, and so much legislation was turned out at the other. He did not, however, regard that as the function of the House. He believed that its deliberations and discussions were certainly not less important than its actual enactments; and it was because he took that view that he regarded the full and free discussion of so difficult a subject as the education question as a matter of such vast importance. It was the only way in which to find out the real objections and the possible answers. An example was furnished on the consideration of Clause 2. It was only after the discussion had been going on for some time that it was realised by some hon. Gentlemen that a very important principle was at stake. The discussion proceeded, and no satisfactory conclusion was arrived at that evening; but the next day a proposal was made by the Government which, though he could not regard it as satisfactory in all respects, undoubtedly showed that the Government had been impressed by the discussion the night before and felt it to be their duty to do something to meet the wishes of the Committee. That could not have happened under the Closure Resolution, and he could not think that the present proposal was satisfactory, or would lead to the settlement of this very difficult and thorny question. The only chance of ultimate agreement between the different parties was by very complete discussion. He believed a very large measure of agreement might be reached. He did not mean to say that an agreement was probable between those who thought that religious education was of little importance and those who thought it was of the vastest possible importance, and indeed, the only form of education that really mattered in the least; but between all those who really believed in religious education he confessed he did not despair of an ultimate agreement. It was profoundly to be regretted that owing to one of those miserable misunderstandings which had done so much harm in the world, those who ought to be fighting side by side against those who despised and resisted religion should be divided; and he could not help thinking that if as the result of discussion in this House and elsewhere they arrived at some definite and lasting agreement no amount of time, however great, which might be spent on it would be wasted or thrown away. For that reason he should vote very heartily against the Resolution, and support the Amendment, which he wished had been more strongly worded.

*SIR PHILIP MAGNUS (London University) said he should certainly support the Amendment for the reasons advanced by the Leader of the Opposition, and also for other reasons to which sufficient attention had not been given. He did not propose to follow the noble Lord on the religious question, great as he considered its importance; but he desired to point out that in the Resolutions proposed by the Prime Minister wholly insufficient time was given to the highly important and controversial questions which were raised by Part III. of this Bill. Part III. might be regarded perhaps as the part which was more educational than any other, and which best justified the title of the Bill. He was not certain whether hon. Members had sufficiently considered the highly important matters which were referred to in that part under the heading of Miscellaneous Amendments. Many of those Amendments were of sufficient importance to be embodied in separate Bills, and certainly required a longer time for discussion than two days. In Part III. was Clause 25 which would entrust higher education to smaller areas than those at present permitted to take charge of it. Then there was the highly important Clause 29 which proposed to remove the existing twopenny limit for higher education. He might be disposed to vote in favour of that clause as it would afford further facilities for improving secondary and, if necessary, even university education by grants from local authorities; but if he had to consider that clause in connection with Clause 25, which diminished the size of the area to be entrusted with higher education, then his opinion on Clause 29 might be changed. This showed how necessary it was if this part of the Bill was to be discussed that they should have sufficient time for the consideration of two such important clauses which bore one upon the other so closely. Then as to Clause 33, which referred to the decision of certain educational questions by the Board of Education. According to that clause the forms of apprenticeship might be regarded as educational, and therefore all trusts relating to apprenticeship would have to be considered. The clause might be a useful one, but it certainly required much longer consideration than could be given to it if two days only were allotted to Part III. Clause 35 dealt with matters upon which, as the Leader of the Opposition had already said, many hon. Members on both sides of the House were in agreement with the framers of the Bill, but they could not agree to adopt the clause without adequate discussion. Clause 36 was of a most controversial character, for it proposed that the register of teachers should be discontinued. Having regard to its great importance it would be a matter of very serious consequence if no opportunity was afforded for the discussion of that very difficult question, and he was sure that all the associations of schoolmasters and teachers would regret it if the clause were passed without ample discussion. He hoped that not only Part II. but also Part III. would be withdrawn because of the insufficiency of time available for discussion, and because it would allow longer time for the consideration of matters arising out of the religious difficulty which had such an important bearing upon elementary education in this country.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) congratulated the Government upon adopting a measure for facilitating the progress of business. He and the Labour Members associated with him were interested in several other important measures, and, unless the Education Bill were disposed of in a reasonable time, some of those measures dealing with great social questions affecting the industrial life of the people of the country would be delayed, and might be found amongst the slaughtered innocents at the end of the session. Needless to say the Labour Members were prepared to support the Government in any measure which it adopted to prevent such a disaster as that overtaking the important measures introduced this session. The noble Lord the Member for Marylebone had suggested that the religious question was so important that almost any amount of time would be valuably spent if the House could arrive at a solution of the difficulty. [" Hear, hear."] That suggestion was applauded, but did any Member who had listened to the discussions which had taken place on the religious difficulty think for a moment that they were now any nearer bringing to an agreement the parties representing sectarian teaching, undenominational teaching at the expense of the State, and those who, like himself, believed that the function of the State should terminate with the teaching of secular instruction? Did any hon. Member believe that, after all the discussion that had taken place, these three great sections were any nearer agreement at the close than they were before the discussions took place? His humble opinion was that they were no nearer a settlement that would be satisfactory to all sections. He had risen mainly in order to make an appeal to the Government, to consider whether it was wise to give four days to Clauses 3, 4 and 5, when any agreement upon the religious difficulty was well nigh impossible, and give only two days to Part III. which dealt with most vital questions affecting the well being of child life. There was one provision in Clause 35 which appealed very strongly to the Labour Members, and that was in regard to vacation schools and the health of school children. There were such matters as medical inspection, the feeding of necessitous children, and other important subjects, which he feared might not have been reached when the closure came into operation. For these reasons he considered that he was justified in supporting the appeal made by the hon. Member for North Camberwell for further time for the discussion of Part III. If it were impossible to settle the religious question in three or four days why should four days be given to it at the sacrifice of time that could be better devoted to important questions involving the health of the children and the hygienic conditions that ought to apply to the schools?

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) felt it would be impossible for the House to consider at all adequately the matters contained in Part III. of the Bill in the time mentioned in the Resolution. Whilst the hon. Member for the Barnard Castle Division was quite prepared to put the religious question on one side in favour of other questions, he could assure him that that opinion was not shared very widely in the House, and his suggestion to give less than four days to the consideration of Clauses 3, 4, and 5, did not appear to him to be a reasonable one. The hon. Member had said that the three Parties would never agree. The question then came to be which was the best of the three plans proposed. The plan which the House was asked to accept was one which gave all the advantages to one section. A little more argument might not unreasonably be expected to convince the Government that they could not follow that course. The Government had scarcely argued in favour of their proposal. They had put forward only one plea which had the semblance of plausibility. It was advanced first by the Prime Minister, and then reinforced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was that throughout the country the principle of popular control had been thoroughly discussed, and that the mandate which they had received was carried out in Clause 1 of the Bill. He was not arguing now as to whether popular control of religious instruction was right or wrong. It existed in Scotland, and something might be said for it. But Clause 1 did not give popular control over religious instruction. There were many areas in England where if they did allow popular control to have free play the existing institutions would be carried on without any alteration. He knew one area where there was a large majority of denominational schools, but there was no exclusion practised towards them in favour of undenominational schools. The right of entry was allowed to nonconformists, and the local authority had gone out of its way to establish two undenominational schools, although it need not have done so. There was no popular control over religious instruction, except in a negative form. Supposing that the Bill dealt with lighting instead of religious education, what would be said of a Government that provided that no local authority need light their area, but that, if they did, they must use a method of lighting known to be unpopular with the larger part of the population. The Government's Motion was directed against their own supporters rather than against the Opposition; for on Clauses 3, 4, and 5 there was no agreement on the Ministerial side of the House. This was a case in which free discussion might have discovered a way of doing justice to all sections of opinion.

SIR FRANCIS LOWE (Birmingham, Edgbaston) asked what were the grounds upon which the closure should be applied to this measure at the present stage of proceedings in Committee. He understood that the reason for applying the closure to any measure before the House was that there had been too prolonged discussion upon it, and that there had been something like obstruction on the part of one or other of the political parties. It could not be alleged that there had been anything which could be called obstruction with regard to the Bill. It had only been discussed in the Committee for six days. In 1902 the Education Bill was discussed for about forty days before any proposal was made by the Government of the day to apply the closure. It was now proposed to apply the closure in a most arbitrary manner. It looked very much as if the Government were afraid to have the Bill adequately discussed. He was perfectly certain that if like treatment had been given to the Opposition in regard to the 1902 Act, hon. Gentlemen now on the Ministerial side would have marched out of the House and taken no further part in the proceedings, as a protest against such a very high handed course being adopted. There was absolutely no reason for applying the closure at the present time.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 341; Noes, 171. (Division List No. 125.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John E. (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, H. (Eastbourne)
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carylon
Benn, John W. (Devonport)
Benn, W.(T'wrHamlets,S. Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H.(Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hn. Augustine
Black, A. W. (Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs,Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. Jas. (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett, C.H.(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh
Dickinson,W. H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.

Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.)
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M.(Aberdeen,W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, HughCecil(St.Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chioozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson, Chas. N.(Doncaster)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H. M.(Suffolk, Eye
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col.Ivor (S'thampton
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert J. (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley,W. E. B.(Bradford,E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas, Sir A (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.H.W.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir J. L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, W. D. (Southampton)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)

White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk,Mid
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJ.T(Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Barry, E. (Cork, S.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh H.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone, E.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain Jas. (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, R. (Lanark, Govan)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hammond, John
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F.(BurySEdm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley(Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour(Hull
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (DublinS
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hn. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col.W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

*MR. JOHN RUTHERFORD (Lancashire, Darwen) said that Clause 3 was one of the most important in the Bill, and he did not think it was right that only one day should be given to it. The Minister for Education had said in his speech that he was in favour of full liberty of debate; but they were beginning to see what liberty of discussion meant in the eyes of the Government. There were a number of most important Amendments on the paper to Clause 3, in which he himself was particularly interested, representing as he did a division in Lancashire in which there were a large number of voluntary schools, and he thought one day was far too little for the discussion of such an important clause. He therefore moved to extend the time to two days.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 6, after the word 'that' to insert the words 'two days to be allotted to.'"

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said he could not deny that hon. Members might easily occupy two days in discussing Clause 3. It was, however, obvious that if the House devoted a whole day to the discussion of that clause ample Parliamentary time would have been given to do it full justice. He could not see his way to give two days to the clause, and if hon. Gentlemen directed their attention to its substance and were content to make short speeches upon it, one day would be found to be perfectly adequate to dispose of it.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said that Clause 3 might, and probably would, catch the Roman Catholic and the Jewish vote, but it was a vital clause for the Church of England schools. As one who represented a large number of Church of England schools, who wished to continue the very excellent religious teaching there given, he hoped that the Government would see that there was a real reason for giving more time to the discussion of that clause.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider his decision on this matter in view of the answer which he had given at an earlier hour of the sitting. He had asked the right hon. Gentleman a question as to when he would formulate the concession which during the discussion last week he promised to make on this clause, and from the answer of the right hon. Gentleman they assumed with tolerable confidence that there would be some modification of Clause 3 made later on in Committee, which would allow full discussion, so as to bring the clause into a form that would be satisfactory to the whole House. This clause affected denominational religious teaching which they on the Opposition side of the House cared for very deeply, and about which he believed the country felt far more deeply than the Government and the right hon. Gentleman were disposed to think; and it deserved a fuller discussion than could be given to it in one day. If the views of the hon. Member for Mid. Glamorganshire were supported by hon. Gentlemen opposite to any considerable extent the Government would find their forces divided. Why should they not be allowed more than one day for the discussion of this important question? If there was to be any change made in the structure of the clause it could only take place after a lively debate in which hon. Members sitting on the Ministerial side as well as hon. Members on the Opposition side would take part. He could not help thinking that the short period of discussion allowed for this clause was intended to preclude a possible division of opinion amongst the supporters of the Government. That appeared to him to be the reason why the Government had determined to allow the least possible opportunity for the expression of opinion. It would be a great misfortune if the Bill emerged from the Committee with this clause in its present indefinite form, or in such a shape that it would not carry out the wishes of a great majority of the Members of the House.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) desired to support this Amendment, because he realised that in this matter there was a trembling in the balance in regard to the interests of the schools. Those who were interested in denominational schools, and especially those interested in Church of

England schools, realised that if this clause became law the greatest and highest interest in those schools would be destroyed. Therefore they felt when they were asked to allow this clause to be rushed through the House after only one day's discussion that they were placed with their backs to the wall and that they must fight such a proposition with all their power. They realised that under this clause the religious teaching which they had hitherto been able to give to the children would come to an end except in a sort of hole-and-corner fashion. Hon. Members must realise that under this clause they would not have that kind of atmosphere which they felt to be of the highest importance for the spiritual welfare of the children. On three days a week teachers of any sort were to be allowed to give simple Bible teaching. The teacher might belong to any sect or to no sect at all; he might be a Christian or a heathen, and yet he might be appointed to a Church school and be instructed by the local authority to give simple Bible teaching. Men who were perhaps sceptics, or atheists, or Buddhists or Mahommedans, or Roman Catholics, or Methodists, in fact any kind of teacher might be placed in their schools, and under Clause 3 they were to give religious instruction on three mornings of the week. The children would soon detect that the teachers did not believe in the instruction they were giving, and religious faith in the children would be destroyed. It seemed to him to be an outrage that such a request as was contained in this Resolution should be made by a responsible Minister. It was not too much to say that they were opposed lock, stock, and barrel to every part of Clause 3, and when hon. Members pleaded that the Bill should be rushed through in order that some other measures might be dealt with, he thought they were taking up an attitude which could only redound later on to their disadvantage. It was because they were deeply devoted to their schools that Churchmen were asking for a reasonable opportunity to enter some protest with the view of bringing the Government to change their line and of making them realise that the Opposition were pledged to the depths of their nature, and were bound up in the interests of the children. He hoped, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman would give more time for the consideration of this clause.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said the Minister for Education had made two statements in the House—one that he desired to see denominational schools maintained in the country, and the other that he desired the Bill to become an Act in as friendly a way as possible. The right hon. Gentleman had failed to realise in adhering so closely to the proposals of the Government that Clause 3 was the only clause of the Bill to which the great mass of the rural schools in the country could look for any hope or assistance whatever. The clause was for them the Education Bill. The right hon. Gentleman did not realise the depth of feeling on the subject. If Clause 4 was adhered to, Clause 3 would not carry out the declarations of the right hon. Gentleman. They certainly thought that the Bill would secure in voluntary schools the religious teaching which parents desired, but as the clause stood it would do nothing of the kind. If Clause 4 was confined to districts with a population of over 5,000, an injustice would be done to the rural districts, which it would be very difficult to defend when Members were brought face to face with individual cases. There would be plenty of cases on the outskirts of small towns where denominational schools would be preserved under Clause 4 if the local authority so desired, while schools, exactly similarly situated, would be brought to an end simply because they were just outside an urban area. He ventured to say that when these matters were brought before hon. Members in their constituencies they would not find it very easy to defend their support of them in this House. The Minister for Education had said that he wanted the Bill to be received in as friendly a spirit as possible. Did anyone believe that, if the Government ran Clause 3 through in one day, it was possible to expect the people in the rural districts to consider that their case had been fairly treated? Under Clause 3 was their only hope of any relief from what they regarded as unjust to the rural schools. If the right hon. Gentleman insisted on forcing the clause through in one day he would create a feeling of soreness and bitterness which would do more to injure his Bill than anything else he could do, and it would arouse amongst the supporters of voluntary schools a strong feeling of indignation. Clause 3 had attracted more attention in the country than any other, and he protested against such treatment being meted out to the rural districts which deserved better consideration at the hands of the Government.

MR. BIRRELL rose to reply.

*MR. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman has already spoken.

LORD R. CECIL: Is there no other right hon. Gentleman who can answer my right hon. friend?

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 124; Noes, 281. (Division List 126.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood,RtHn.SirAlex.F.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hammond, John
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazelton, Richard
Helmsley, Viscount
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley(Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohn H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Mooney, J. J.
Murphy, John
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. John Rutherford and Mr. Rawlinson.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen,A.Acland(Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R
Benn,JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt

Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black,ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Bolton,T.D.(Derbyshire, N. E.)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce,J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David(MontgomeryCo.)
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn.
Glendinning, R. G.

Goddard Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N)
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese,Sir JosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M‘Arthur, William
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crace, George
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.

Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W.D. (Colchester)
Perks, Robert William
Phillips, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,Rt.Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Sematon, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)

Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Torrance, A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) said in moving the Amendment which stood in his name he might claim that the clauses to which it referred were clauses of great importance. There was a very strong reason why they should discuss this question with a hope of solving it. It was that so far they were absolutely in the dark as to what Clause 4 meant. The Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had both told the House they did not think any extra time was required, because it had been devoted to unimportant details and unnecessary speeches in the past. Nobody who had studied Clause 4 would say it was unimportant. It was infinitely more important than any other clause in the Bill. The Prime Minister had said that this question had been thrashed out, but, if so, what was the meaning of the great feeling that had arisen among the Nonconformists and the appeals that had been made by deputation and in other ways? Beyond the replies to those deputations there was absolutely nothing to indicate to the House what the intentions of the Government were or how this clause would emerge from the Committee. It was a clause of which amendment was demanded from all parts of the House, and sooner or later the President of the Board of Education would have to make up his mind. The right hon. Gentleman had for a long time been shivering on the brink like the bather on the edge of a cold pool, but the time would come when he would have to enter the pool, and the Committee would insist on a far clearer definition of what the clause meant. Clause 4 was the keystone of the Bill. If it were amended in the direction of giving a fairer chance to the religious denomination and a more complete teaching of religious truth, then it would go a very long way towards removing a great part of the objection which was felt towards the Bill by those who sat on the Opposition side and by some, at any rate, who sat on the Ministerial Benches. If the amendment took that form then the right hon. Gentleman might expect some lasting settlement. But if the clause remained as at present, or was amended in a contrary direction, then there would be a continuance of the strife which they had been deploring for many years, and which would never be settled until this question was dealt with on principles of equity to every denomination and creed in the country. In view of the great issues involved, the divergence of opinion on both sides, and the many possibilities as to amending the clause, it was only reasonable that more than three days should be given to its consideration, and that the financial Resolution should be relegated to another time. If the clause were not thoroughly amended in the direction of the pledges and promises given to the representatives of various denominations, a feeling of soreness would arise which the right hon. Gentleman would deplore perhaps more than any other Member of the House, because they recognised that if the right hon. Gentleman were only left alone by his Party there would be a fair chance of receiving just and fair treatment. The great injustice which would be done to denominational schools under the clause as it stood would leave a permanent unrest and a lasting settlement would be further off than it had ever been. In Clause 4 alone was recognised the right of the denominations to give their own religious teaching in their own schools at the hands of their own teachers. It only partly recognised the right, it was true, but it did recognise it, and that was a great point.

It was a very amazing thing, however, that a great Nonconformist majority in this House should be bent on giving a considerable advantage to the Roman Catholic body at the expense of their Protestant brethren. He did not complain of the rights which were given under this clause to the Roman Catholics, but he would complain bitterly if those rights were not extended to the Church of England. As the clause stood there could be no question that the Roman Catholics and the Jews would have advantages which members of the Church of England and Church of England schools would not have.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER said the hon. Gentleman was now discussing the merits of the clauses, and he must confine his remarks to the objects of the Amendment.

*MR. LANE-FOX said the point he desired to make was that the questions involved in Clause 4 were so far reaching that it was absolutely necessary that they should have more than three days for their discussion. In 1902 considerable time was given to Clauses 6 and 7, and ten days to Clause 8 of the Act of that year. At least they ought now to be allowed half as long for a clause very much of the same kind in the questions it raised and in its length, as Clause 8 of the Act of 1902. There was the great question as to whether the clause should be mandatory or not. On that point there was a good deal of controversy, not only in the House, but in the country. Another important question which arose was as to whether there was to be complete equality between town and country. The present disparity was bound to give rise to considerable debate, and he hoped at any rate that those who represented rural districts would have much to say as to the possibility of extending these facilities in rural districts. These and other questions which would arise would occasion very considerable discussion, and he hoped they would be thoroughly and efficiently debated, because unless a complete solution was discovered there could be no lasting settlement in the country. Another question which arose was as to the limit of four-fifths. He did not know how the right hon. Gentleman had arrived at that limit. He agreed that it was very hard on the right hon. Gentleman that an innocent remark as to minorities suffering should have been quoted so freely all over the country, but if he was determined to lay down this rule it was going rather contrary to it to introduce a clause by which twenty-one persons could coerce seventy-nine, and that would be the effect of the four-fifths clause. He wanted to know why this majority should be established and why there should not be a certain right to those schools which could not obtain the recognised majority. He commended those points to the right hon. Gentleman as matters well worth consideration. If it was possible to give alternative religious instruction of a definite character——

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Member is now asking questions which will arise on the clauses but which do not arise now.

MR. LANE-FOX said he was trying to show the different questions which would arise, and necessitate a very full and complete debate when this clause came before the Committee. It was absolutely necessary that there should be a full discussion of all these important points. He wished to know whether some hopes could be not held out to them that these matters would be fully discussed. There was the great question of the teachers giving religious instruction in the schools and the restrictions to be imposed and what form they should take. That was a matter to which they attached very great importance. There were other extremely important matters about which discussion was bound to rage hotly. Upon this question he trusted they would have a more definite indication of sympathy and support from those hon. Members opposite who up to the present moment had done so little to justify their name as Liberal Churchmen. He hoped the Minister for Education would give them time to express their opinion. The right hon. Gentleman would have to take sides soon upon this question, and tell the House plainly whether he was going to adopt the view of Dr. Clifford or the view of those who favoured denominational teaching. When the Unionist Party demanded to have the session brought to a close early in the last Parliament they were told that it was done because they wanted to go away shooting grouse. What was sauce for the Unionists was also sauce for the Liberals, and why could the great Liberal Party not wait a few days longer to shoot their grouse? There was no clause in the Bill which required so much discussion and in regard to which they were so absolutely in the dark as Clause 4, and he felt sure there were no subjects upon which there was so much divergence of opinion as those therein dealt with. He begged to move.

Lord R. CECIL seconded the Amendment. As the Resolution stood an enormous mass of subjects would have to be dealt with in these three days. Clause 4 was not only of great length, but the Amendments to it on the Paper already covered eleven pages, and no fewer than fifty of those Amendments were in the names of hon. Members on the Ministerial side of the House. Clause 5 was less contentious, but must occupy a certain amount of time, and then there was the Committee stage of the financial Resolution. It was impossible to discuss all this in three days. Many of the proposals in Clause 4 were plainly indefensible when dealt with as matter of logic. He would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman opposite that if he would only definitely drop Part IV. of the Bill, he would have an extra day at his disposal. He thought they were fully justified in asking for an extension of one day, considering the widespread interest which Clause 4 excited.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 8, to leave out the word 'three,' and insert the word 'five.'"—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'three' stand part of the Question."

Mr. BIRRELL said he was not the man who was likely to dispute the importance of Clause 4, for hardly a day had passed since the Bill had appeared without his receiving a communication from somebody in relation to it. For weeks and months past more thought and attention had been given to Clause 4 than had ever been received by any clause in any Bill of any Government for a considerable time. There was a tendency to underrate the value of Parliamentary time, and the amount of work that could really be done in it. The noble Lord seemed to suggest that if they could have one other day that would make all the difference. He had no doubt that this Bill raised questions which the noble Lord would like to discuss for ten years, and he did not think they would come to a final solution of them even then. He did not really think that if the Amendment were accepted they would have made much progress on the subject. If hon. Members spoke in the amiable and delightful way in which the hon. Member for Barkston Ash had addressed the House, six days might be occupied, particularly if there was no great desire to proceed faster. He had no desire to stifle discussion, but with concentration and a will to get on the time allotted to these clauses would be sufficient. A somewhat sarcastic reference had been made to Liberal Churchmen, and the hon. Member had expressed the hope that they would justify their existence by taking part in the discussion. He himself hoped that by arrangement all views on this particularly well defined subject might be accurately expressed. He admitted that it could only be done by concentration. He had enough experience of Parliament to know how difficult it was to induce people to concentrate their arguments, but he thought three days on Clauses 4 and 5 should be sufficient. Clause 5 was supplementary, and he did not think it ought to take very much time.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) referred to the time it had taken to impress the points made by the Opposition in regard to Clause 2 on the Minister for Education and to secure concessions from him, and stated that the important questions involved in Clauses 4 and 5 and the financial Resolution required all the time claimed by the Amendment. He submitted that an extra day might be of material value in the discussion of the matters raised in those two clauses. If the discussion on Clause 2 had ended on the first day they would never have obtained from the President of the Board of Education the admission that his Bill was not in accord with his election pledges.

MR. BIRRELL: I never made any such statement.

LORD BALCARRES: The right hon. Gentleman admitted frankly that there was a gap between Clauses 3 and 4.

MR. BIRRELL: I never said in my introductory speech that there was not a gap. There is a gap.

LORD BALCARRES said the right hon. Gentleman had stated that the facilities under Clause 2 were compulsory. They proved to him that they were not compulsory. It was the fact that they had sufficient time that enabled them to prove their case, and if this Closure Resolution had been moved at an earlier stage a great injustice would have been done to the Church of England, which was that portion of the religious community most closely affected by Clause 2. Clause 4 was, he supposed, the most controversial in the Bill, with one exception. It dealt with the extended facilities, but the right hon. Gentleman had never told the House what the extended facilities were. When he introduced the Bill the right hon. Gentleman said it was a clause which would require very grave consideration from all parts of the House. Had it received adequate consideration? He submitted that it would be virtually impossible to discuss this far-reaching clause in the time allotted to it along with other matters. The Minister for Education had described Clause 5 as supplementary, but he did not know that the right hon. Gentleman quite appreciated the position taken up with regard to religious teaching in the schools. The clause dealt with the future of schools in which distinctive religious teaching was to be given and, so far from being supplementary, it was one of vital moment and importance to which full attention and care should be given. He thought that three days for the discussion of Clause 3 alone would be a very moderate allocation of time. It was all very well for the right hon. Gentleman to tell them to concentrate their arguments. They would undertake to concentrate their questions if the right hon. Gentleman would undertake to give specific replies. The right hon. Gentleman's replies had not been wholly relevant to the questions put. No explanation had been received on the question of teachers. As to tests, were they or were they not to be abolished under this Bill? These were matters which required discussion. They required explanation by the right hon. Gentleman which had not yet been given. He submitted that the question which would arise on Clause 4 was more than adequate to supply business-like and concrete discussion for three days. Then, when they came to Clause 5, he assured the right hon. Gentleman that a very large body of English Roman Catholics, whom he represented, considered it a very vital clause.

MR. BIRRELL: Do you object to Clause 5?

LORD BALCARRES said he should have a good deal to say about Clause 5, and he hoped that it would not turn out to be illusory and a sham. As to the Committee stage of the financial Resolution, the right hon. Gentleman had said that the discussion on the expenditure of the million pounds would be purely formal.

MR. BIRRELL: At that stage.

LORD BALCARRES said that the Committee stage was the fittest on which any question of finance could be discussed. If the right hon. Gentleman thought that the expenditure of a £1,000,000 was a purely formal affair, he differed very widely from his colleagues, who attached considerable importance to economy and the adequate discussion of finance. He maintained that on this financial question the House had not had a satisfactory Answer. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education and the right hon. Gentleman had given wholly inconsistent versions as to the object for which this million of money was to be paid. One said that the money was to be given for the purpose of providing rents for the voluntary schools, and the other that it was to be given in relief of the rates. He did not consider that these were the same objects. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education had assured the House that this million had been specially measured out to meet the proper requirements under the Bill, and that the particular figure had been determined by the amount the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be able to provide out of the Budget next year.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said that when the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education brought in the Bill, he then said that steps would have to be taken on the passage of the Bill which would throw a heavy additional burden on the rates, and that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had agreed to a grant from the Exchequer in order to relieve the rates. No doubt that grant would be applied in payment of rent for the voluntary schools. There was no mystery about that.

LORD BALCARRES said there was no mystery, and no difficulty; but there was no information.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER said he hoped the noble Lord would keep to a discussion of the question before the House.

LORD BALCARRES said he was not going to discuss the question of the merits or demerits of the grant; but while he accepted the statement of the right hon. Gentleman as very important indeed, it only showed that it was necessary that they should have more discussion on the point. He hoped the Government would give way and allow the extra time to be devoted to the discussion of this particular group of clauses.

COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) said he would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman the Minister of Education which of the clauses in the Bill he considered the most important. Judging by the way in which he had been bombarded with Questions as to Clause 4, that seemed to be most important. Nobody whatever had risen to say that there had been any obstruction on the part of the Opposition to this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER said that the hon. and gallant Gentleman was not in order. The question before the House was whether three or five days' discussion should be given to Clauses 4 and 5 and the Committee stage of the financial Resolution.

COLONEL WILLIAMS said he was just going to argue that Clauses 4 and 5 were much more important than Clauses 1 and 2, to the discussion of which six days had been given. They could not get the million of money without passing a Resolution, and, in his opinion, it could not be supposed that Clauses 4 and 5 and the Resolution to spend a million would be passed on the same day. It was strange to find that the Minister for Education had not realised the deep feeling which the proposals in Clause 4 had stirred in the minds of thinking men throughout the country. People were feeling very deeply that the great question of religious education was not being treated very fairly, and he thought that the Government were trying to force this Bill through Parliament without having regard to that deep feeling.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that if the House could come some agreement on Clauses 3 and 4 he believed they would be doing a greater service to the cause of education than had been done for the last fifty years. He confessed he had been deeply impressed by remarks of the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone, who had said, with great truth, that onthe question of religious education there was a certain underlying principle of union between all sections in the House except amongst the sixty Members who had voted for the entire exclusion of religious instruction. The noble Lord had adopted a tone which was quite different from that which had hitherto been displayed upon the Opposition Benches, and had expressed the opinion that some *concordat* could be arrived at between all those Members of the House who still desired to see the Christian religion maintained as an integral part of the primary education of the country. This was one of the most important questions which could be discussed in Parliament, as he knew that one of the most deeply rooted ideas of some

Members of the House was a desire to see the principles of the Christian religion maintained in the schools. Unless they came to some sort of friendly agreement, however, he feared that ultimately they would have a secular system forced upon them. The country would become saturated with that idea of secular education and that ultimately would, he feared, prevail, and this quarrel would go on. Therefore, he said it was desirable that hon. Members who were desirous of preserving religion and the Bible in the schools should endeavour to arrive at a *concordat*. There were two ways of dealing with the matter. One was a larger hearted proclamation by the Government that they did not wish to deprive the country of religious education, and the other was the alternative of secular education. Nationalists had never adopted the view that Ministers, or the Minister for Education, desired to deprive the country of religious education. They did not believe that it was the wish of the Government or of the Minister for Education to abolish religious instruction from the schools. Therefore he welcomed the admission of the noble Lord that he found himself to some extent in sympathy with the desire of many of the Nonconformists on the other side of the House. The noble Lord had expressed himself in most eloquent and powerful language, and he had said, with truth, what would be the result if they were to carry on this quarrel to the bitter end. If they were to carry on the quarrel over what he believed to be non-essentials they would, he thought, lose the essentials. Therefore, he appealed to the Government to give on these two great contentious Clauses 3 and 4 greater liberty of discussion. After all it should be remembered that liberty of discussion, even when it had amounted to license, had resulted in making discussion profitable. He remembered a debate on a very memorable Bill which was a monument of honour to the great statesman who proposed it. He alluded to the Budget Bill of 1894. That was made the subject of the bitterest opposition which he had ever known, and it was obstructed for night after night.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER said that he thought the hon. Member was going at great length into the discussion of Clauses 3 and 4, upon an Amendment which only dealt with the length of time which was to be occupied in their discussion.

MR. DILLON said that, of course, he bowed to the ruling of the Chair, though as a very old Member of the House he must say that he had thought he was in order in referring to the importance of the clauses in order to justify a demand for a longer period of discussion. He would say, however, from his experience, which had extended over twenty-five years, during as stormy a time as the House of Commons had ever known, that it was a dangerous thing to shorten discussion in cases where deep feeling and passion were aroused. When they shortened discussions they were liable to accentuate passion and feeling, and when subjects which aroused that feeling were forced through without discussion the House had not settled the matter, and in the end they forced the discussion on the country. Therefore, if the discussion on Clauses 3 and 4 were unduly shortened, instead of settling the question, the Government would be only continuing the quarrel. Whether the Committee looked at the matter from the point of view of secular education or from the point of view of religious education, it was of supreme importance that in our struggle with the other nations of the world in regard to the efficient education of our children they should consider the question free from this religious struggle. They could not do that except by coming to some *concordat* or some agreement on the religious question, and the reason why he pressed for some further time for the discussion of Clauses 3 and 4 was that he was deeply convinced that if they had more time for discussion they might come to an agreement He could not bring himself to believe that, given adequate time for discussion, hon. Gentlemen opposite who were Liberals would bind themselves to the principle in the Bill, As the Bill now stood it appeared that hon. Gentlemen opposite were determined to force Roman Catholics and the representatives of the Church of England to pay rates for the purposes of religious instruction to which they were opposed, without giving any security that their religious convictions would be respected. The system of refusing to pay rates could be practised on both sides. Nationalists had paid rates for years for religious instruction to which they were entirely opposed, but English Liberals had set them the example of passive resistance, and could not they also resist passively and perhaps actively too? Did the Government think that they were going to settle this question by setting up as great and perhaps a greater injustice than that against which they had protested at the last election? No one could accuse him of being a friend or partisan of either the Church of England or of Nonconformity. Therefore, he was more fitted to speak on this subject than some others, and he said that if the Government forced these clauses through without adequate discussion—clauses which every Member must admit would strike deeply and fundamentally the consciences of the vast masses of people in this country—they would inevitably strengthen the hands of another section of the Legislature with whom they would have to deal. Let the Government take care that they did not lose their Bill, because the time might come when they would be face to face with a General Election on this matter. Unless they gave full time for the consideration of these questions it would be urged with great force against them that they had not allowed their opponents to urge their objections to their proposals. When the Government were dealing with a Bill which touched the convictions of the people they ought to be not only just, but even generous, and he might say that they ought to go far beyond what they considered even to be reasonable. He did not think it was at all impossible to arrive at a reasonable agreement in regard to Clauses 3, 4 and 5. If Clauses 3 and 4 were modified so as to embody the declarations of the Government the Nationalist Members would support the Bill. He did not share in the complaint against the Government that they did not put their Amendment on the Paper in regard to Clause 2, because until they knew into what shape Clauses 3 and 4 were going to be cast they would themselves be unable to say what their attitude would be towards Clause 2. He earnestly urged hon. Members on both sides to approach the consideration of Clauses 3 and 4 with a reasonable attitude of mind. If they did not do so, and arrive at some settlement, they must carry on the war; but let not the Government, if this quarrel were continued, lay the flattering unction to their soul that they were going to force the country to accept Clauses 3 and 4 without some arrangement such as he had indicated having been come to. It was true that the Second Reading of the Bill was carried by a large majority, but so also was the Bill of 1902. The Government had carried the Second Reading of the Bill by a large majority. but the late Government carried theirs with a much larger. That was only four years ago, and what was their position to-day? Was there no lesson for the Government in that experience? Were they prepared to go back to the country on this question alone with all their promises unfulfilled? That was what they might have to do.

Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. Member is digressing a little beyond the Amendment, which is that five days be given to these particular clauses.

Mr. DILLON said this question might be involved. He merely wished to point out that it was not for the purposes of controversy that he had spoken as he had done, but with an earnest and sincere desire that peace might prevail.

Mr. T. W. RUSSSELL said he thought there was the strongest case for the Government's reconsidering this part of the Resolution. After all, Clause 4 was a great part of the Bill. He could hardly understand how the Government came to arrange that only three days should be given to these two most important clauses. There was a very strong body of Nonconformists bitterly hostile to Clause 4, and they would probably move its exclusion. Once the debate was started did anyone tell him that it would be possible to get rid of it in less than a day?

Then there was the point that the clause should be made mandatory. The Minister for Education had stated that he desired that it should not be an illusory clause. He meant it to work. There were a large number of Members—he was one—who believed that the clause would not work unless it was made mandatory. Would that question be disposed of in a day? Then again, once they got into the "four-fifths" question all sorts of other questions would arise. It was absurd to suppose that three days would suffice for Clause 4. On that part of the Bill the debate should not be cribbed, cabined and confined. He voted in every division against the Bill of 1902. He hated it. Small concessions in that Bill would have saved them all the trouble they were having now. He did not want to have all this work to do again. He was willing to remove all the legitimate grievances of the Nonconformists, but he would not be a party to putting a grievous burden upon other people.

MR. WYNDHAM said he was impelled to rise to support the arguments of the hon. Member for South Tyrone. It seemed proper to listen with great attention and deference to those arguments which came from hon. Members behind the Government and from Nationlist Members, although those which came from the Opposition might in the eyes of the Government seem less worthy of attention. The very structure of the Bill made it incumbent on them to urge their Amendments with heat and almost with passion when they had Clause 1 before them, and they were perilously near going out of order. When they pressed their arguments on Clause 1 they were told that their objections would be met when they came to this part of the Bill. It was admitted that six days was not too much for the discussion of Clauses 1 and 2. They could not have got through Clause 1 and part of Clause 2 but for the statements of the Minister for Education, and almost every member of the Government, who said that when they came to Clause 4 their doubts would be solved, their fears dissipated, and all their objections met. If it took six days to adjourn the discussions on those points was it proper now to say that they could be discussed in three? The Government might dispose of the Bill, but it could not dispose of the question, and if the Government disposed of the Bill and did not dispose of the question, so far from meeting the views of hon. Members below the gangway, so far from curing the ill, they would leave a festering sore. If there was a chance of meeting the objections that had been urged by giving more time to the discussion of Clause 4 then he s id in all earnestness and sincerity the Government would be made to adhere to this time limit and refuse to listen to the arguments now addressed to them. The debate on Clause 1 lasted six days, but that debate would stand as a delusion and a snare unless at least an equal amount of time was given for the discussion of the most important questions raised by Clause 4.

MR. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.) said that if the Government were not pressed for a day or two, and they were to have an autumn session, he could not see that there was any reason why they should be unwilling to give something more than three days to this long and important clause. Besides points in the clause, there were many which were not in it, such as contracting out, which had a great many supporters in the House. The discussions which had been going on in the country had been most declamatory, but there was no reason to suppose that the discussions in the House would not be practical, and he hoped that the practical discussion which was to be looked for on Clauses 4 and 5 would not be limited to three days. When they had the rest of the session and the autumn session he thought, as the hon. Member for East Mayo had said, the chances of the Bill could not be injured, but might be helped by a free, and, if they liked, exhausting discussion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he was surprised that no one had risen from the Treasury Bench to answer the appeal not merely of his hon. friends behind him, who being the regular Opposition, deserved, perhaps, no particular attention or consideration, but of supporters of the Government on both sides of the House.

He was bound to say that the Minister for Education was in a difficult position. The point was a matter not for the right hon. Gentleman, but for the Leader of the House. The Prime Minister was absent for reasons which they all profoundly deplored, but he thought the House had reason to complain that there was no second-in-command present to give a decision on this question, which was not immediately connected with the Education Bill, but had to do with the general conduct of Parliamentary business. The Minister for Education had exhausted his right of speaking, and no other Member of Cabinet rank had been on the Front Bench during the greater part of the discussion. The result was that they were not in a position to make an appeal to those who alone could answer it. Might he, for the benefit of the Secretary of State for India, who had just come into the House, briefly recapitulate the main points which had been put from all quarters of the House? He would begin with the least important, though much more important than the Minister for Education appeared to suppose, and they were the financial provisions which were thrust in at the end of this particular portion of the Resolution. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the Committee stage of the financial Resolution was formal, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education cheered that observation. He would undertake to say that when the hon. Gentleman was a member of the Opposition he never allowed that stage to pass without giving the Committee the benefit of a long speech. At the present moment the financial plans of the Government were absolutely obscured, and relatively unimportant as was the financial Resolution compared with the other points now brought before them, it was one which could not be ignored. The main point, however, were the religious controversies raised by Clauses 3, 4, and 5. He himself had been accused of unduly curtailing debate. The hon. Member for South Tyrone had asserted that if he had made a very small concession upon the religious clauses of the Bill of 1902, this Bill need not have been introduced. Therefore his conduct as Leader of the House and Minister in charge of the Bill of 1902 might be regarded as representing the high-water mark of wickedness in the way of restricting debate upon this religious question. Then let the Government follow his example or rather better it. For Clause 2 of the Bill of 1902 he allowed, not three days, but nineteen-and-a-half days. Were this Government, who came in largely to restore the liberties of Parliament, going to allow only three days, when their predecessors—the tyrants, the bullies, the oppressors of minorities—gave nineteen-and-a-half days? He agreed with much that had fallen from the hon. Member for East Mayo and from his noble friend behind him as to the large measure of agreement which might be arrived at by those who were genuinely anxious for religious education in the schools. He did not know that he was as sanguine as they were, but he was certainly not going to chill their enthusiasm by expressing any doubts of his own. At all events, let the House be given the chance to hammer out this difference. What would the Government lose by giving such a chance? If the Bill left this House with every religious passion aroused and every controversy unsettled, it would give those in another place an opportunity of dealing with the measure in their own way—it would give them a chance which, as a Party politician, he might rejoice at, but which, as a Member of the House of Commons, he personally would regret. He wished that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had heard the persuasive appeal of the hon. Member for East Mayo. The Opposition might be under suspicion, but the hon. Member could be under none. His avowed object was to smooth the path of the Government, if possible. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer had heard that speech he did not think he could have resisted it, and he thought that if the right hon. Gentleman would consult the opinion of hon. Members sitting behind him he would find that they felt as the members of the Opposition felt upon this subject. ["No."] He had had considerable practice in gauging the unexpressed feeling of the House, and he believed that the majority of Members opposite really desired to see a large and generous concession in this matter. He wished to emphasise the appeal which had been made by other speakers, and if the Chancellor of the Exchequer would make inquiries he would find that he had made no error, and had given no incorrect view as to the feelings which animated hon. Members on both sides of the House in regard to this question. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to make an important modification in this proposal, and if he had that authority this was the proper time to exercise it.

Mr. BIRRELL said that if he stood alone, and there were no other consideration but the Education Bill to think of, he should very much deprecate the resort to the closure. But other Ministers and Members had rights. The scheme of closure had been made out so as to allot every day of the time between now and the proposed autumn adjournment, and it was only possible to give another day to this most important clause. On the understanding that the House was willing to sit not only on Saturday, August 4th, but also on Saturday, July 28th, the Government would give another day to the discussion of Clause 4.

Mr. ASQUITH: Does the right hon. Gentleman accept that offer?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that he must honestly say that he was unable to understand the basis of this compromise, if it could be called a compromise. The right hon. Gentleman had got an autumn session before him, and it was not reasonable to ask the House to deal with this most critical of all questions on a Saturday in the dog-days. For the Government to believe that it was meeting the wishes of the House to give two Saturdays for discussion when there was an autumn session before them was surely a most unreasonable proposal. But though the Opposition were a helpless minority, he hoped that the Government would not ask it to receive this suggestion now made either with acceptance or with gratitude.

Question put.

The House Divided:—Ayes, 335; Noes, 169. (Division List No. 127.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Bolton,T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Rt.Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon .R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, J. W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David(MontgomeryCo.)
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace

Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan(Hereford, S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithness-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman(Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson, Chas. H. (Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor(S'thampton
Philipps, J. Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert J. (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (Southa'pt'n
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)

Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York. W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hn. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chance, Frederick William
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain Jas. (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hamilton Marquess of
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
Lockwood, Rt. Hn., Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John W
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancash.)
Walrond, Hn. Lionel
Watt, H. Anderson
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland - Hood and Viscount Valentia.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said that after the debate which they had just had he did not think it necessary to make any lengthened remarks on the Amendment standing in his name, because the President of the Board of Education had admitted the whole of its principle. It was almost inevitable that some time should be taken up in the discussion of the financial Resolution after the decision of the Government in regard to Clause 13.

Amendment proposed—

In line 8, to leave out the words "Clauses 4 and 5 and the Committee stage of the financial Resolution" and insert the word "Clause 4."—(*Mr. Laurence Hardy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. RAWLINSON said that in regard to the financial arrangements differences might arise in view of the Answer which had been given by the President of the Board of Education to a Question put by the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone. That Answer was that the new grant would be distributed in accordance with regulations to be shortly issued; but those regulations had not yet been issued, and the grants in aid might not be given necessarily to the voluntary schools, but to others.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.) thought it would show the spirit in which these Amendments were being moved if he pointed out that there was not a single Amendment down to Clause 5 from the other side of the House. In regard to the financial Resolution, he had got into trouble for applauding the Leader of the Opposition when the right hon. Gentleman expressed the opinion that this ought to be taken in Committee as an entirely formal stage.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR denied that he had said so. What he had said was that this was one of the peculiar safeguards which were erected by our remote ancestors, and he went on to say that the Opposition in the late Parliament entirely adopted that view. He also pointed out that there never was an Amendment in regard to this matter which the Parliamentary Secretary did not speak about. That statement was, he believed, uncontradicted, but he had said that however short the discussion on the Committee stage of the Financial Resolution might be, it was upon that that the Government should explain their plan. The Government in this case had never explained their plan in regard to finance, and when one came to explain an elaborate financial proposition, it was obvious that some time must be taken up in doing so. That was the point he made.

*MR. LOUGH said he would leave the matter where the right hon. Gentleman had left it. The financial Resolution was, as he understood the right hon. Gentleman, a formal stage which had been bequeathed to us by our ancestors. There was no need for a discussion then and it could more conveniently take place later.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR remarked that he had never wished to abolish it.

*MR. LOUGH said the right hon. Gentleman probably would abolish it. He himself had secured a reform of their procedure in this respect. For many years this stage was regarded as being so purely formal that the terms of the Resolution were not even placed upon the Paper, and the House were asked to pass the stage without knowing the terms of the Motion. Owing to the lucid exposition which he and others gave of the matter a most valuable reform was carried out under which the House had occasionally enjoyed the advantage of seeing the terms of the Resolution. If anybody now wanted information they had only to look at page 20 of the Order Paper that day and they would find every reasonable explanation of it that they could expect. There were no less than four stages of the Resolution—the Committee stage a purely formal one, with a Report stage to follow; then the clause, to be again followed by a report. There was no reason whatever for adopting the Amendment and he hoped that the mover would withdraw it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not want to traverse the field in which the hon. Member had described his Paliamentary triumph in regard to this Resolution. In his view the Committee stage of the Resolution corresponded with the Second Reading of a Bill. He was sorry to hear that the Government had adopted this most unorthodox and heretical practice, and he did not think it should relieve them of the necessity of explaining the proposals which they made. The fact that they had not explained their proposals made the Committee stage far more important than it otherwise would be. What were the calculations as to time which made the Government so reluctant to give an additional day? The Prime Minister evidently had the figures in his possession, but he had given no precise dates in explaining the arrangements for the session. He had talked vaguely about holidays and about the House rising at the end of July or the beginning of August and meeting in October; but he gave no dates, although he apparently had them, because it was evidently only consistent with their plan that the Government could on no account give them another day without two Saturday sittings. Why two Saturday sittings should be equivalent to one week-day passed his Parliamentary arithmetic. If Clause 5 with regard to transferred voluntary schools were not proceeded with, it would give more time for the consideration of Clause 4, and he thought that the House would agree with him that they were discussing matters of such importance that the least the Government could do would be to take them into their confidence, and tell them why it was that two additional days could not be given to them without upsetting the Government arrangements. What were the arrangements so delicately poised that the balance of a few hours on one side or the other would precipitate the Government into the abyss?

MR. ASQUITH: If possible we should separate on August 4th.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What does the right hon. Gentleman expect us to do before this fateful August 4th.

MR. ASQUITH: Pass the Education Bill.

LORD R. CECIL said that of all the answers ever given to a request made to a Minister from the Front Opposition Bench the answer just given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was the most unsatisfactory. Because the Opposition were in a small minority, the Chancellor of the Exchequer thought it right to reply in what he could not but describe as a grossly insolent manner. ["Order."]

*MR. SPEAKER said he did not think the words "grossly insolent" were in order.

LORD R. CECIL withdrew the expression, and said he extremely regretted that in the heat of the moment he should have been betrayed into an expression which he asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer not to believe to have been an intentional insult, but merely rather a hasty summary of his feelings. A Paper was at that moment circulating on the Treasury Bench evidently containing a schedule of dates. He thought the Government would see that it would be only courteous to give the information for which the Opposition had asked. He moved the adjournment of the debate in order to give the Government an opportunity of giving further information.

*MR. SPEAKER reminded the noble Lord that it had been decided that the House should sit beyond eleven o'clock, and said he could not accept the Motion.

MR. WALTER LONG thought the position in which they found themselves was one for which old Members of the House, to whom he especially appealed, would find it difficult to discover a precedent. They had been told in a single sentence that the object of the Government was simply and solely to terminate this portion of the session on August 4th. It was the constitutional right of the Opposition to ask the Leader of the House of Commons, or his representative, what business the Government proposed to take. That question had been asked, and the answer was that it was intended to adjourn on August 4th. No statement as to business had been made or as to what the House would be asked to do on the two Saturday sittings it was proposed to take. So far as they knew it was proposed that those two sittings should be extra days for the discussion of this Bill.

MR. ASQUITH: Oh, no.

MR. WALTER LONG said it was all very well for the right hon. Gentleman to say "Oh, no"; he should give the information in a little longer Answer. All he could say was that according to the information in the possession of the Opposition, it might be that these two extra Saturdays were to be given to the Education Bill. The Government were taking the worst possible step to make that Bill a message of peace. They were consoling themselves with the reflection that the opposition came from a few people who, it was said, had a vested interest in the question. It was nothing of the kind. It was a genuine opposition. The demand that was made upon the Government was a reasonable one, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not treated the Opposition fairly, or with that consideration which it was accustomed to have.

MR. ASQUITH said that nothing was further from his thoughts than to be guilty of anything in the nature of discourtesy. The view of the Government was that the work of this part of the session should be concluded on Saturday, August 4th. In order to conclude the necessary financial business of the session they were prepared to ask the House to sit on that Saturday. With that exception, and with the exception of three Fridays, they were prepared to give the whole time between now and then to the Education Bill and the necessary business of Supply. Two of the Fridays were private Members' Fridays. The third Friday would be devoted, it might be, to the Trades Disputes Bill or some other Bill—he was not in a position to say; but he said quite frankly that the object of the Government was that the House should rise on August 4th. They would take on that Saturday the final stage of the Appropriation Bill. If it was necessary to devote more time to the Education Bill, they would devote a Saturday sitting to it.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 362; Noes, 175. (Division List No. 128.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John E. (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, John Williams(Devo'p't
Benn, W.(T'wrHamlets,S.Geo.)
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W(Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. Jas. (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hn. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt Hn RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, SirT.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J(S Pancras W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, D. (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson,WH(St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)

Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hn. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford,S
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.)
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caithn'sssh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Hon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hn. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, JM(Falkirk B'ghs.)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts. Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George(Swansea)
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor(S'thampton
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert J. (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E.B.(Bradford,E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richard, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'm't'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E (Dundee
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Scott,A. H.(Ashton underLyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh).
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.

Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J W H (Somerset, E.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir J. L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John (Cathcart,Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C,
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. W.(Worcestersh.N.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, W.
Wodehouse,Lord(Norfolk,Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex. F
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harwood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos .H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North))
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James(Down,E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Gordon,SirW.Evans-(T'rHam.)
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hammond, John
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley(Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hon.Col.W
Keswick, William
King, SirHenrySeymour(Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay,Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker,SirGilbert(Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Redmond, John E. Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)

Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'n Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Laurence Hardy and Mr. Rawlinson.

Mr. LOUGH said the Government were prepared to accept the following Amendment—

"That two days be given, if required, to Clauses 6 and 7 and the Report Stage of the financial Resolution, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the second of these allotted days."

Amendment proposed—

"In line 12, to leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of line 14, and insert the words 'two days be given, if required, to Clauses 6 and 7, and the Report Stage of the financial Resolution, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the second of these allotted days.'"—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not rise to resist the Amendment or to criticise it. But it was far more important to have an additional day for the discussion of Clause 4 than for the discussion of Clauses 6 and 7. He did not know why the Government had made this concession while refusing to make the other. The points at issue in Clauses 6 and 7 were not comparable in importance with the points at issue in Clause 4. The more they saw of the Government's method of carrying out this Closure Resolution, the more astonishing it seemed to be. The Government had refused to give them an additional day upon something which was universally agreed to be a vital matter [Cries of "No, no."] What did the offer mean? It was that if the Government gave them a day the Opposition were to give two Saturdays to business unspecified. So important did they think it to get into the country on Saturday, August 4th rather than on Monday, the 6th, or Tuesday, the 7th, that this Government, who reproached the late Government with being luxurious, with sacrificing the business of the country to their own personal ease and comfort, would not even trench on their August holidays by two days in order that this vital part of the Bill might be considered. The Government had tossed them this day. They accepted it, but the mere fact that the Government had given it on Clauses 6 and 7 rather than on Clause 4 showed the spirit in which they were approaching the discussion on the Bill and how utterly they misunderstood not merely the temper of the House, but, what was far more important, the temper of the country.

Mr. DILLON said he strongly sympathised with the view expressed by the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition. He could not conceive what ideas were in the mind of the Government when they thought it was a fair and reasonable allocation of time to give two whole days to the consideration of Clauses 6 and 7, and only three days to the consideration of Clauses 4 and 5. That was a most amazing declaration on the part of the Government as to the comparative value they attached to the clauses of the Bill. Clauses 6 and 7 might be to some extent contentious, but Clauses 4 and 5 were in the highest degree contentious. He thought that the allocation of two days to Clauses 6 and 7 was, as compared with three days for Clauses 4 and 5, a most preposterous allocation.

Mr. ASQUITH said the Government had offered an additional day for Clause 4, but the Leader of the Opposition was so anxious to have two additional days that he would not accept one.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that no such offer on behalf of the Government reached the Opposition. What was said was that the Government would give an additional day if the Opposition consented to sit on two Saturdays. The right hon. Gentleman came to him personally and made the offer, and he had asked, "What are the two days for?"

MR. ASQUITH said that meant that the right hon. Gentleman, rather than assent to the House sitting on two Saturdays, refused to accept one additional day.

MR. WALTER LONG said the Chancellor of the Exchequer persisted in putting the case in regard to the Opposition in an unfair manner. The offer made was that one extra day would be given on the understanding that the House agreed to sit on two Saturdays. The offer of the extra day was conditional, and the Opposition did not assent to the condition.

SIR FRANCIS LOWE asked whether it was too late now to accept the conditional offer.

Question put and negatived. Proposed words inserted.

LORD BALCARRES said that the effect of the Amendment on Clause 2 proposed by the Government would make it necessary to recast Clause 8, which would add enormously to the duties of the Board of Education, and that would necessitate considerable discussion. He certainly did not quarrel with the Government that they had been driven to leave out Part II. of the Bill, and therefore he contented himself with moving the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 15, to leave out the word 'three' and to insert the word 'five.'"—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'three' stand part of the Question."

MR. BIRRELL said it was perfectly impossible for the Government to accede to this Amendment. If hon. Gentlemen would concentrate their attention on the really important subjects under consideration, there would be ample time for their consideration. He admitted that the school endowments of this country should be placed upon a proper footing, and Part II might reappear at some future time. He believed that it was perfectly possible for the Committee to consider these questions seriously without making Second Reading speeches on every possible occasion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman, or one of his colleagues, whether it was not obvious that, after the promised Amendment to Clause 2, great alterations would have to be made on Clause 8. They had not the least conception of the alterations which were to be made on Clause 8, which necessarily would be of a far-reaching character. Therefore, they were discussing this question in the dark, because it was impossible to forecast what the discussions would be when these alterations were proposed.

MR. BIRRELL said he would make a statement on the subject afterwards. A great deal of play had been made unfairly and unnecessarily, as he thought, with regard to this concession. According to the Bill, as it now lay on the Table of the House, nobody doubted as to what schools the local authorities would adopt. These schools were to be open to the inspection of anybody, and there was no obligation on the local education authority to acquire any voluntary school whatever, or to refuse it. The right hon. Member for Oxford University moved an Amendment which made it obligatory on every local authority to acquire every voluntary school that was assumed to be a fit and proper school to be taken over. His reply to that was that it was impossible to impose on any local authority an obligation to take over every voluntary school; but he maintained that if the private owners or trustees, whatever their trust might be, would be willing to incur a corresponding obligation to hand over every one of their schools irrespective of their trust, and if the local authority were prepared to take them, he was willing, having regard to the saving of time, trouble, and expense, to consider that proposal. He certainly received no assurance from right hon. Gentlemen opposite as to their willingness to do anything of the kind, though he did receive from the hon. Member for Waterford a modified consent to that obligation, which was to be dependant on the terms of Clause 4 being satisfactory to his Party. He did not see, therefore, in what sense it could be truthfully or honestly said that this proposal of his had complicated in any way the consideration of the questions with which it dealt. If there could be an agreement arrived at between the two sides as to a corresponding obligation, Clause 8 might be considerably modified, but until he received some assurance from right hon. Gentlemen opposite that they were willing to acquiesce in that proposal he really did not think that they were treating him quite fairly in this matter.

Mr WYNDHAM thought that the right hon. Gentleman had made an unjustifiable accusation against the Opposition. They could not be expected to pronounce an opinion upon this question until they knew the form which Clause 4 as well as Clause 3 was to assume. Clause 3 attacked their interests far more severely than Clause 4 attacked the interests of the Party led by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford. They reserved their judgment until Clauses 3 and 4 were settled, and they could not judge till they saw it whether the concession which was to be made was any concession at all. In view of the attitude of the Government in withholding what their concession was to be there was good ground for asking for ample time for the consideration of the Amendment.

Major SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) did not think the right hon. Gentleman's statement tallied with what he had said in a previous debate. [An Hon. Member: "There was a promise."] Perhaps "promise" was the better word. He understood that the attitude of the Opposition was not going to determine what his right hon. friend was going to do, but he understood him as making a promise that the right of appeal should be bilateral. That was a definite undertaking, and he thought the Government should make it plain exactly how the matter stood.

Mr. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said his recollection was that his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education made a suggestion, and a suggestion only, which was not accepted by anybody.

Mr. DILLON said he had no doubt as to what had happened. The right hon. Gentleman had made an offer to bring in a modifying Amendment, and after considerable discussion he gave an undertaking to put the Government Amendment on the paper at a subsequent stage. The ultimate fate of that Amendment would depend upon the reception which it met with from the Opposition.

Mr. WALTER LONG who was received with cries of "Agreed," said that it was all very well for hon. Members to cry out "Agreed," but the right hon. Gentleman had made a statement which differed from one he had previously made.

Mr. BIRRELL said he had already stated at Question time that as soon as Clause 4 had been disposed of he would put on the Paper the bilateral obligation which he contemplated.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said the right hon. Gentleman, when pressed in the previous debate, said he would put this obligation on the Paper, but that he could not fix the date when that should be done. The right hon. Gentleman, in answer to a Question to-day, had said that his clause must depend on the shape that Clause 3, Clause 4, and Clause 6 might ultimately assume. It was on those grounds that earlier in the day he had ventured to ask the right hon. Gentleman for a little longer time for the consideration of the clause which would ultimately determine what form this clause would take.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 354; Noes, 158. (Division List No. 129.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)

Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hon. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H (Sussex. E. Grints'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)

Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt, Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.

Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy, (Essex Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J, T.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke

Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John. Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, L (Carmarthen
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J (City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barry, E. (Cork, S
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh H.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S)
Craig, Captain Jas. (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred D.
Dolan, Chas. Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hammond, John
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F W. F. (Bury S Edm'ds.)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W

Keswick, William
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, Arthur H. (HantsFareham
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt-Col. A.R.
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, K. (Tipperarry Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

MR. LOUGH said that early in the afternoon the hon. Member for the Barnard Castle Division appealed to the Government to secure some time for the discussion of Clause 35. The Government had considered the matter and were prepared to do what the hon. Member asked. He therefore moved to leave out all the words after "that" in subhead (*f*) in order to insert, "Clauses 25 to 34 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day, and that Clauses 35 and 36 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day." This did not increase the number of allotted days.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 19, to leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of line 22, and insert the words 'Clauses 25 to 34 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day, that Clauses 35 and 36 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. LAURENCE HARDY thought they might very well ask for some explanation of the Amendment which had been suddenly sprung upon them in lieu of the Amendment in his name, and in which they asked for further time for this clause. They now found that Clauses 25 to 34, which dealt with a vast number of extremely difficult subjects, were now relegated to one allotted day. Some further information was certainly called for as to why the Government should suddenly have come to this conclusion. He suggested that pressure had been put upon the Government from their own side, and that some of the clauses were to be dropped. He did not think that this was a satisfactory way of settling the difficulty.

MR. LANE-FOX protested against a clause which contained matters of extreme importance to rural parishes, such as delegation of powers, the 2d. rate, and capital expenditure, being given such a small amount of time for discussion.

DR. MACNAMARA supported the proposition of the Government, and said he would not press for the three days he asked for earlier. In the interests of individual Members who were so often forgotten in these debates he should support this proposal.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) pointed out that the clauses included in Part III. were the only clauses in the Bill which could be called educational, and urged that it was impossible adequately to discuss the several important questions which they raised in the time proposed. A simple way out of the difficulty was to give them another week to discuss the whole matter. He did not know why this sudden alteration had been sprung upon them, or why it had been found necessary to give so much time to Clauses 35 and 36, which were not even mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman in his speech when he introduced the Bill. The only conclusion he could come to was that he intended to graft on to this clause the conclusion of the Select Committee upon the provision of meals for children.

Mr. LOUGH: That proposal is not in the clause.

*Mr. BRIDGEMAN asked if the Secretary to the Board of Education was prepared to say that the words "power to make such arrangements as may be sanctioned by the Board of Education for attending to the health and physical condition of the children" could not be interpreted as covering the whole question as to whether the children were underfed or not?

Mr. LOUGH: It is not intended to cover that.

*Mr. BRIDGEMAN said that if that was not the reason, he would like to know why this division in the time had been made. The only other reason he could see for the proposal was that the Government intended to drop one or more of the previous clauses. The Radical Association in his constituency had passed a resolution welcoming Clause 26, but declaring that the management of public elementary schools, where delegated, should be exercised by a body directly elected for that purpose with powers of administration within adequate areas. [Cheers.] From the cheers with which that resolution was greeted it was obvious that it expressed the opinion of a considerable body of hon. Members on the subject. If that was so, it was perfectly absurd to imagine that it could be discussed in the tenth part of a day. Another important point was that Clause 26 was the only one on which the question of London could be raised at all in connection with the Bill. An enormous number of people were dissatisfied with the way in which the Education Act was being administered by the London County Council, and some hon. Members would like to see an alteration introduced. Clause 28, which extended the time for the repayment of loans from thirty to sixty years, proposed what was really a revolution in regard to the borrowing powers of educational authorities, and it ought not to be allowed to pass without careful consideration. It devolved the obligation for repayment upon another generation. Clause 29, dealing with the 2d. rate for secondary education, was most important, and more time ought to be allowed for its discussion. There were other matters dealt with in Part III. of the Bill which could not be properly discussed in two days, amongst these being the question of the apportionment of capital expenditure, the conditions imposed upon students entering training colleges, and the arrangements as to vacation schools and the health of school children. In regard to vacation schools they had an entirely new experiment. He believed that the experiment so far had been successful; but it had been voluntary and had not received the approval of the Board of Education in any definite way. Again, in regard to the health of the children attending the schools, it was admitted that the clause dealing with that question involved very complicated problems. Lastly, there was the question of the teachers' register. The teachers' register was started in 1899–1900. The question was one which affected teachers very considerably. Many of them had gone to very great inconvenience and expense to qualify themselves to get on to this register, and it was not right that injustice should be done to them by abolishing it. [Ministerial cries of "Divide."] It was perfectly clear that a majority of hon. Members opposite did not wish to have a discussion or a thorough understanding of the question, and that was the reason why they were in such a desperate hurry for their holiday. He asked the right hon. Gentleman if he thought seriously that he could pass these ten important clauses satisfactorily in one day, and whether he intended to bring the question of the feeding of children under Clause 35.

*Mr. HICKS BEACH said that as the representative of an agricultural constituency he protested against the hollowness of the concession offered by the Government. Clauses 35 and 36 were no doubt of great importance and worthy of a full day's discussion. For such questions as the feeding of children, and the providing of means of recreation in the school-houses in their holidays—even to the extent of turning the schoolroom into a swimming bath or gymnasium—might very well be raised in those clauses. But surely Clauses 25 to 34 were collectively of much greater importance and worthy of more than one day's discussion. He believed that there were many clauses in the Bill which were very unpopular, but he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that Clause 29, which removed the 2d. limit of rate for secondary education, was most unpopular in the country districts. The Government had announced that they had fixed August 4th for adjourning for the holidays, though they had frequently in the past twitted the late Government with an unnatural desire to adjourn on August 11th, which was a day of national importance in all constituencies which contained tracts of moorland.

*MR. SPEAKER said that if the hon. Member wanted to get away either on August 4th or 11th he had better keep to the point under discussion.

MR. BIRRELL said that as regarded the feeding of children, there was, as the House knew, a Bill dealing with that subject which had been referred to a very laborious and painstaking Committee. The Government gave an assurance at the time of the reference that time would be given for the consideration of the measure, and he hoped the promised opportunity would be found during the autumn session. Therefore it was quite unnecessary to consider that part of the case, as during the autumn they would perhaps have the report of that Committee before the House. He would be sorry if the question of devolution under Clause 26 were not properly discussed. It was a complicated subject, but he still hoped that they would arrive at some arrangement under which power should be given to the county councils to accept, proposals which would enable devolution to be carried out. He would be sorry if this principle of devolution did not receive fair consideration at the hands of the House when it came to be dealt with in Committee, but unless some sort of agreement or common ground was arranged between them it might be impossible fairly to consider it. The county councils might be willing, and he was informed they were willing, to make schemes of their own to devolve upon local bodies their powers.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR wanted to know what sort of agreement or arrangement the right hon. Gentleman wanted. He himself wished to press upon the Administration the advisability of withdrawing some of the miscellaneous clauses between 25 and 34, although of course he did not include in that recommendation Clause 26, which dealt with delegation. He earnestly pressed the Government not to bring their proposals and themselves into discredit by asking the House to do more than could possibly be done in the time, and he suggested the Government might still further relieve the Bill of some unnecessary clauses. He did not ask them to make any proposals now, but he did ask them to consider the matter. He thought the time given for the discussion was ludicrous, but the remedy for that was not, in his opinion, to move an Amendment to give further time, but to suggest that the Government might still further relieve the Bill by excising some unnecessary clauses.

MR. ASQUITH said that the suggestion was a reasonable one, and between now and the time when this portion of the Bill was reached the Government would consider how far it was possible to adopt it.

Question put, and negatived.

Proposed words inserted.

MR. BRIDGEMAN said the Amendment he now moved was to leave out Sub-section (g) relating to Welsh education. There had already been some discussion upon this point and he did not propose to take up time in going over arguments which had already been addressed to the House. He, however, ventured to think that a new departure such as was proposed by the portion of the Bill here referred to was a question that might very well be dropped or else a much longer time must be allowed for its discussion. He would rather have seen it dropped than parts of Clause 3 which were much more important. He moved the Amendment because he thought it was absolutely impossible to discuss the whole of this question in one day.

MR. F. E. SMITH seconded the Amendment. He ventured to urge most strongly upon the generosity of hon. Gentlemen opposite a condition which they would admit could not be overlooked. It was that, although Welsh representatives did not allude to it, there was in Wales a very strong body of opinion entirely unrepresented in this House which possessed the strongest moral claim to have its views considered in these debates so far as a reasonable allowance of time would enable those views to be considered. That body of opinion was avowedly hostile to the portion of the Bill which dealt with Wales, and he asked the right hon. Gentleman responsible for the measure whether he seriously suggested that the propriety of making a new arrangement of this kind could be adequately considered in a single day.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out lines 23 and 24."—(*Mr. Bridgeman.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'That' stand part of the Question."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon District) said he certainly thought one day would be quite enough to discuss this point. The question had been discussed very fully in a few hours at a conference in Wales, and it was also discussed very fully upon the Second Reading of the Bill. He saw no special difficulty in the matter. He had looked at the Amendments on the Paper, but they did not raise any serious points. There were two or three Amendments of importance, but they could all be adequately discussed in the course of a day's debate. He believed he could satisfy the hon. Gentleman that there was no real ground for apprehension with regard to the powers of the proposed council, and the Government were fully prepared to meet all reasonable suggestions.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he must disabuse the House of the impression which had been made—unintentionally, no doubt—by the right hon. Gentleman that the proposals of the late Government for giving to the Welsh council control of their primary education in any way resembled the proposals now before the House. The late Government assented to a proposal for a joint Committee under Section 17 of the Act of 1902, upon which powers would be conferred under the control and superintendence of the Board of Education, and for which the Parliamentary representative of the Board could answer in this House. The present Government's proposal made the Welsh Council independent of the Board of Education, and left no one responsible to Parliament for its action. Nobody could be called to account for any action of the council taken under Part IV., and they had to bear in mind that what this council would have to administer was not the Act of 1902 but the Bill now before them, which, if passed in its present form, would enable the local authority to efface religious teaching from all the elementary schools in its area. The House, or at any rate a considerable portion of it, would therefore agree with him in saying that it was a very large power to confer on any local authority for whom no one in this House was responsible. He had no doubt that from the point of view of the President of the Board of Trade the matter was a simple one. They were to confer upon a council powers by Order in Council, and give it all the money which was due for education within its area to do what it would with, and no one was to be called to account. It was plain and simple enough on paper, but the simplicity amounted to crudity and the crudity involved peril, and one day was not adequate for discussing the proposal in all its bearings.

LORD R. CECIL could not agree with the President of the Board of Trade that this subject had been discussed adequately on the Second Reading. On the contrary, the matter was scarcely mentioned on that occasion. Owing to the rules of the House they were not allowed to discuss the merits of the proposal, but only whether it was desirable that it should form part of the Bill or not. Part IV. was contained in one clause. That was merely a matter of drafting. and as a matter of substance it might just as well have been contained in nine clauses. If this Part had been brought in as a separate Bill, no doubt the nine sub-sections would have appeared as separate clauses, and certainly no one would have suggested that the discussion should have lasted only one day. Sub-section 4, Sub-head (a), proposed to confer on the council the powers and duties of the Board of Education. That was a very serious power indeed to confer upon the council in Wales. Even in England, where the Board of Education exercised these powers, they were subject to a very large number of checks, and ultimately in each case to the control of Parliament. By another sub-section power was given by Order in Council to authorise the council in Wales to raise any money required by contributions. These were very wide powers, and certainly the proposal ought not to be passed *sub silentio.* Part II. gave some indication of the kind of powers that the proposal would confer upon the council for Wales.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said they had had the powers referred to by the hon. Member for years in Wales, and Part II. did not affect them.

LORD R. CECIL said he thought the right hon. Gentleman somewhat exaggerated the point when he said that all these powers had already been conferred upon the authority for intermediate education in Wales. The powers under Part II. were very wide, but he thought it was a proposal of an extremely novel character to set up in Wales a council over which Parliament would have no control.

MR. BIRRELL said the object of this proposal was to secure the control of Parliament over the allocation of the money. Having regard to the position which Wales occupied, there could be very little hesitation in the mind of anybody who knew the zeal and the passion of the Welsh people for education in admitting that they were perfectly well able to look after elementary as well as intermediate education if this council were set up by the common consent of the Welsh people. That was an important piece of devolution. which he commended to all parts of the House. Looking at the matter from the point of view of Whitehall, he was bound to inquire what their position would be in regard to the £800,000 allocated to be spent upon Welsh education, and he refused to be responsible for the expenditure of that money unless he, with the House and the Treasury, had some control over it Any Amendment to secure that end would receive no opposition from the Government. If that point could be got over and proper security given to the House as to control, and provided Parliament was given opportunities of informing itself as to how the money was being expended in order that questions might be answered in the House, that seemed to him to meet the whole necessities of the case. He did not see how they could refuse to Wales the complete control of elementary education, provided she was willing to undertake it and was equal to the task, just in the same way as the late Government conferred upon Wales complete control of intermediate education.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was anxious to know the exact position of the Government in regard to the Welsh devolution scheme. He understood the President of the Board of Education to say that an Amendment would be introduced to secure to the Board of Education the right of obtaining information to enable the Government to answer Questions in Parliament. That was quite a different point from that which had been raised, which was whether there was still to reside in the Board of Education any power not merely to obtain information but to control the expenditure. He agreed that the position in Wales was different from that in any other part of the country, but the Government could not on that account ask them to consider such a proposal purely from the point of view of Wales. This was a proposition to give Wales absolute control of elementary education, and at the same time Welshmen were to be allowed to come here and interfere with English and Scottish education. It was rather a strong order to ask them to discuss this scheme of devolution in a form which was far from definite and settled in the mind of the Government. The matter might very well form the subject of future legislation.

SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said he was desirous that full control should be secured by the Board of Education over the expenditure of this council in Wales. If that was the intention of the right hon. Gentleman he could not have taken a worse way to carry it out. The proposal they were now discussing interfered not merely with the Board of Education and the Departmental rules, but with a very much larger question, namely, the whole control of Parliament over its own grants. It was idle for the President of the Board of Education and the President of the Board of Trade to compare the two cases of the National Council proposed for Wales and the Council established for higher education in Wales. There was no analogy whatever between the two. The council which was to deal with national education in Wales would have a certain sum handed over from the Exchequer, but the council for higher education in Wales dealt with endowments and certain schools belonging to them. It had nothing to do with the Imperial grant. [AN HON. MEMBER: "It has."] It did not decide how the Imperial grant should be distributed. [AN HON. MEMBER: "It does."] The way in which the Imperial grant was to be distributed was decided by the rules laid down by the Board of Education, and not by the Secondary Education Board in Wales. The President of the Board of Education desired above all things to secure the authority of his Department and the authority of Parliament over the grants, but the proposal in the Bill was to hand over a large sum every year to this council to be distributed according to rules which it might itself lay down. The conditions under which the Imperial grants were distributed were submitted to Parliament for approval. The Minister who distributed the grants was responsible to Parliament, and if any school, or teacher, or any individual, felt aggrieved at the way the grants were distributed an appeal could be made to Parliament through a representative. This was absolutely abolished by Part IV. of the Bill. Could the right hon. Gentleman say that he had any means by which to secure the authority of Parliament over the disbursement of sums amounting to £1,000,000 a year? If they were to have Home Rule in matters of education in Wales, and the independent distribution of Imperial grants, why not for other parts of the country? If the Chief Secretary for Ireland were here he would agree with him in regretting that the Board of Education in Ireland acted independently of him. The right hon. Gentleman could only accept their decisions. Did the House wish the same thing for Wales and Scotland? To pass such a measure for Scotland would be a retrograde movement which would be regretted by all who had the interests of education in that country at heart. In view of the large interests involved they would do well to take more than a single day to discuss the proposal.

LORD BALCARRES said he considered one day wholly insufficient for the discussion of this question. The President of the Board of Education had given assurances that certain matters would be put right, but as they were not put right in the Bill these assurances did not satisfy him or his friends. The President of the Board of Trade had practically told the country that this matter was outside the sphere of controversy in Wales, but having made himself acquainted with the facts, he could state that there was a very powerful section bitterly hostile to Clause 37 of the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman knew that he had the whole of the Welsh Party on his side, but it should be remembered that two-fifths of the votes cast at the election, representing a substantial body of opinion, were opposed to Clause 37. Two-fifths of the votes had been cast against the President of the Board of Trade. There was in the clause as introduced no provision for the responsibility of Parliament. He defied anyone to say that it could be adequately discussed in five hours. The clause was one of the most controversial parts of the Bill. People in Wales who were deeply interested in education assured him that they viewed with the greatest apprehension the principles laid down under Clause 37. He might refer in passing to the extraordinary nature of the speech directed against voluntary schools by the hon. and learned Member for Mid. Glamorganshire, and he contended that one day was wholly inadequate to discuss so important a proposal.

MR. ASQUITH rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 328; Noes, 81. (Division List, No. 130.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbt. Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, H. (Eastbourne)
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John W. (Devonport)
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bright, J A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clark, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, D. (Montgomery Co.)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, John A (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset N
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Kitson, Sir James
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. H.

Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T B.
Nicholson, CharlesN (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester
Pearson, W. H. M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Col. Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford(Pembroke
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B.(Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie

Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, SirG. Scott(Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, HerbertL. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H.(Ashton under Lyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)

Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H.(Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond, (Merioneth)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarthen
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJ. T.(Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster Rt. Hn Hugh O.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone, E.)

Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Lloyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hardy, Laurence(Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F.(BuryS Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley(Staff'sh.)
Lane-Fox, G. R.

Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter(Dublin, S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E.(Liverpool, Walton
Starkey, John R.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.

Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'That' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 329; Noes, 80. (Division List No. 131.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John W. (Devonport)
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets S. Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randall
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David (Montgomery Co
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Parick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J M (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Kitson, Sir James
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J M (Falkirk B'ghs.)
Maclean, Donald
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald

M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'tha'pton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E. B. (Bradford E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richard, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson SirGScott(Bradf'rd)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H.(AshtonunderLyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisb'ry
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Aber (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J W H (Somerset, E.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir JT(Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.Sir AlexF.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh H.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. N. (Bristol, West)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F.(Bury S Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert

Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Thompson, W. Mitchell (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancash.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Claude Hay and Mr. Evelyn Cecil.

MR. ASQUITH claimed "That the main question, as amended, be now put."

*MR. SPEAKER said that there was an Amendment standing in the name of the Leader of the Opposition which he thought ought to be considered. If the right hon. Gentleman was prepared to move it at once he would withhold his consent from the Motion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR moved to leave out the words providing that if a Minister of the Crown moved to leave out Part II. or any clause of the Bill the question should be put without debate. The first part of the paragraph—the last sentence of which he was proposing to omit—gave the Minister power to move that any portion of the Bill be dropped. That was a perfectly proper proposal, but the Government had gone much further and said that the proposal to drop any part of the Bill not only might be made but must be accepted or rejected by the House without amendment or debate. It was the first time they had endeavoured to deal with this question, and he thought it would be a most evil omen that the House should adopt a scheme which would make it appear that it was in the opinion of the House reasonable that the promoters of the Bill should have this power. They had only got to consider what would happen if the promoters of the Bill, for example, were to exercise the power in respect to Clause 4. There was a large number of hon. Members from Ireland, for instance, who were anxious to have the Bill passed if they could get such provisions in Clause 4 as they desired. It would be perfectly possible for the Government to drop Clause 4 without giving any reason, without listening to any reason, and without permitting any discussion. That power ought not to be granted. He advocated the proposal in the first part of the paragraph as an alteration in the Standing Order in the interest of the general business of the House. He hoped in the interests of future legislation and of this Bill the right hon. Gentleman would accede to his proposal. So far as he knew, the Government did not propose to drop any part of the Bill which he would wish to be retained, but he was speaking rather beyond the immediate intentions of the Government.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 38, to leave out from the word 'Committee,' to the end of the paragraph."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. ASQUITH said the object of putting in this sentence was to save time. He would take as an example a Motion that was tolerably certain to be made to leave out Part 2 of the Bill. On that Motion the whole of the day or the greater part of the day might be taken up subject only to the closure. They wanted to save the time of the House to discuss the living clauses of the Bill which the Government intended to press, and on the part of the Government he wished to give the assurance that no Motion would be made to leave out any clause or any part of this Bill which was not in the nature of something separable from the rest of the Bill; in other words, no Motion to drop any part of the Bill which was dependent on the general scheme of the measure would be submitted.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 272; Noes, 122. (Division List No. 132.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy

Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Armitage R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, H. (Eastbourne)
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A, Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams(Devonp't
Benn, W. (T'wrHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W(Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH(Sussex,EGrinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David (MontgomeryCo
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.

Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W. Bateman (Somerset N
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hn. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras,E
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs.
Maclean, Donald
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Arthur, William

M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford. W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs,)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)

Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, TheodoreC.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York. E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarthn
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boland, John
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt.Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cleland, J. W.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Criak, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants. W.
Fell, Arthur
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy,Laurence(Kent. Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazelton, Richard
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley(Staff'sh)
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Rt.Hn. Walter(Dublin,S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt.Rt.Hon. Alfred
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson. E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert W.
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien,Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, AbelH. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Watt, H. Anderson
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Main Question, as amended, again proposed.

Mr. ASQUITH rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 269 ; Noes, 120. (Division List No. 133.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,John Williams (Devonp't
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N. E.
Brace, William
Bransdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs.,Leigh
Bryce,J.A.(InvernessBurghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grins'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randall
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David(Montgomery,Co.
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M. (Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt.Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Arthur, William
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D.(Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monmouth
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.

Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hon. A. Lyulph (Chesh.

Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H, Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.

Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread. Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthen
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork N.E.)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boland, John
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P, Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey

Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants. W.)
Fell, Arthur
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, L, (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S Edm'd)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Mason, James F. (Windsor
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield

Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Thornton,, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. F. E. (Kent, Mid)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams. Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly.

The House divided:—Ayes, 262; Noes, 121. (Division List No. 134.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, H. (Eastbourne)
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John W. (Devonport)
Benn, W. (T'wr Hamlets,S.Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hn. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs.,Leigh
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, David (MontgomeryCo
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W. H.(St.Pancras, N
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (SomersetN
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras, E
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral,
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hn. David
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, JM(FalkirkB'ghs.)
Maclean, Donald
Macpherson, J. T.
M‘Arthur, William
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launcest'n
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H.H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Chas. N.(Doncaster)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M.(Suffolk, Eye
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Philipps, J Wynford(Pembroke
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E.B.(Bradford, E
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (WMonm'th
Richards, T. F. Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, SirGScott(Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir Wm. Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.

Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor,John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisb'ry
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, JWH(Somerset, E.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJT(Huddersf'd

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.HnAJ(City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boland, John
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett, Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants,W.)
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Grant, Corrie
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hn. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F.(BurySEdm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal,E .)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H (Hertford, East)
Smith, F.E. (LiverpoolWalton)
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H.(Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Ordered, That the Committee stage and Report stage of the Education (England and Wales) Bill, including the Financial Resolution relating thereto, shall be proceeded with in the following manner:—(a) That the remaining part of Clause 2 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the first allotted day; (b) That Clause 3 be proceeded with and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day; (c) That three allotted days be given, if required, to Clauses 4 and 5 and the Committee stage of the Financial Resolution, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days; (d) That two days be given, if required, to Clauses 6 and 7 and the Report stage of the Financial Resolution, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the second of these allotted days; (e) That three allotted days be given, if required, to Clauses 8 to 13 and any Motion which may be made to leave out Part II. of the Bill, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days; (f) That Clauses 25 to 34 be proceeded with, and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted days; that Clauses 35 and 36 be proceeded with, and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day; (g) That Part IV. of the Bill be proceeded with, and the proceedings thereon brought to a conclusion, on the next allotted day; (h) That the remaining clauses of the Bill, and the schedules, and any new Government clauses, and any new Government schedules, and any other matter necessary to bring the Committee stage to a conclusion, be proceeded with and brought to a conclusion on the next allotted day; (i) That three allotted days be given to the Report stage of the Bill, and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously brought to a conclusion be brought to a conclusion on the third of these allotted days. After this Order comes into operation, any day shall be considered an allotted day for the purposes of this Order on which the Education (England and Wales) Bill is put down as the first Order of the Day. A Motion may be made by a Minister of the Crown to leave out Part II. of the Bill, or to leave out any clause of the Bill, before the consideration of any Amendments to that part or clause in Committee. The Question on a Motion moved by a Minister of the Crown to leave out Part II. of the Bill or to leave out any clause of the Bill shall be put forthwith by the Chairman or Speaker without debate. At 10.30 p.m. on any allotted day on which proceedings on any allotted business are to be brought to a conclusion, or if the day is a Friday, at 4.30 p.m., the Chairman or Speaker shall, if those proceedings have not already been brought to a conclusion, put forthwith the Question or Questions on any Amendment or Motion already proposed from the Chair and shall next proceed successively to put forthwith the Question on any Amendments moved by the Government of which notice has been given (but no other Amendments), and on every Question necessary to dispose of the allotted business to be concluded, and in the case of Government Amendments or of Government new clauses or schedules, he shall put only the Question that the Amendment be made, or that the clause or schedule be added to the Bill, as the case may be. At 11 p.m. on the day on which the Third Reading of the Bill is put down as first Order, or if that day is a Friday at 5 p.m., the Speaker shall put forthwith any Question necessary to conclude the proceedings on that stage of the Bill. Proceedings to which this Order relates shall not, on any allotted day on which proceedings on any allotted business are to be brought to a conclusion under this Order be interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House. After the passing of this Order, on any day on which any proceedings on the Education (England and Wales) Bill stand as the first Order of the day, no dilatory Motion on the Bill nor Motion for Adjournment under Standing Order 10, nor Motion to postpone a Clause, shall be received unless moved by a Minister of the Crown, and the Question on any such Motion shall be put forthwith without debate. Any Private Business which is set down for consideration at 8.15 p.m. on any allotted day, or on the day on which the Third Reading of the Bill is put down as first

Order, shall, instead of being taken on that day as provided by the Standing Order "Time for taking Private Business," be taken after the conclusion of the proceedings on the Bill for that day, and any Private Business so taken may be proceeded with though opposed, notwithstanding the Standing Order "Sittings of the House." — (*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*)

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn," — (*Mr. Whiteley,*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at twenty-eight minutes after Two o'clock.

[APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CLVIII.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the House of Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Alkali, etc., Works	*Earl Carrington*	Read 2^a 18th June (1319)
*Colonial Marriages [H.L.]	*Earl of Elgin*	Report 15th June (1247)
*Criminal Appeal [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Committee 14th June (1096)
Education of Defective Children (Scotland)	*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*	Read 2^a 14th June (1095)
*Finance	*Marquess of Ripon*	Read 1^a 14th June (1078) Second Reading (adjourned) 15th June (1252)
*Indian Railway Acts Amendment		Read 1^a 18th June (1319)
*Justices of the Peace (No.2).	*Earl Beauchamp*	Read 2^a 14th June (1078)
*Metropolitan Police Commission	*Earl Beauchamp*	Read 1^a 14th June (1078) Read 2^a 15th June (1249) Committee } 18th June (1322) Report }
*Reserve Forces	*Earl of Portsmouth*	Committee 14th June (1099) Committee 18th June (1321)
*Seamen and Soldiers False Characters	*Earl of Portsmouth*	Committee } 14th June (1101) Report } Read 3^a and passed 18th June (1322)
*Wireless Telegraphy	*Earl of Granard*	Report 14th June (1101) Read 3^a and passed 15th June (1245)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Bond Investment Companies	*Mr. Kearley*	Read 1° 14 June (1165)
*Bills of Exchange Act (1882) Amendment	*Sir John Walton*	Read 1° 30th May (436) Read 2° 15th June (1289)
*Charitable Loan Societies Ireland	*Mr. Cherry*	Read 2° 15th June (1292)
*Education (England and Wales)	*Mr. Birrell*	Committee 28th May (116) " 11th June (707) " 12th June (828) (894) Procedure 18th June (1391)
*Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland)	*Mr. T. Shaw*	Read 2° 15th June (1294)
*Finance	*Mr. Asquith*	Committee Report 29th May (301) Read 3° and passed 13th June (1022)
Government of Scotland	*Mr. Barnes*	Read 1° 14th June (1165)
*Indian Railway Acts Amendment	*Mr. Ellis*	Read 2° 29th May (363) Committee Report 15th June (1294) Read 3° and passed 15th June (1294)
*Judicature (Ireland)	*Mr. Bryce*	Read 1° 28th May (102)
*Labourers (Ireland)	*Mr. Bryce*	Read 1° 28th May (107) Read 2° 13th June (972)
Limited Partnership [H.L.]	*Sir William Holland*	Read 2° 14th June (1236)
*Metropolitan Police Commission	*Mr. Gladstone*	Committee 29th May (366) Committee Report 30th May (437) Read 3° and passed 30th May (437)
Musical Copyright	*Mr. T. P. O'Connor*	Read 1° 28th May (101) Read 2° 8th June (680)
Nurses Registration	*Mr. Munro Ferguson*	Read 1° 14th June (1165)
Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (Registration of Patent Agents) [H.L.]	*Mr. Radford*	Read 1° 11th June (707)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Poisons and Pharmacy [H.L.]	*Mr. H. Samuel*	Read 1° 13th June (972)
Political Pensions	*Sir H. Vincent*	Read 1° 12th June (828)
*Post Office Sites	*Mr. Buxton*	Read 2° 15th June (1292)
*Public Health Officers	*Mr. Powell*	Read 1° 28th May (101)
*Public Trustee [H.L.]	*Sir John Walton*	Read 2° 15th June (1262)
*Revenue	*Mr. Asquith*	Read 1° 29th May (301)
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*Salmon Freshwater Fisheries	*Sir E. Strachey*	Read 1° 28th May (101)
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*Statute Law Revision (Scotland)	*Mr. T. Shaw*	Committee Report } 15th June (1307)
Tied Houses (Abolition)	*Mr. Ernest Lamb*	Read 1° 28th May (102)

APPENDIX II.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1906.

List of Rules, Orders, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

In Continuation of List given in previous Volume.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Hyde and Merthyr Tydvil, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Barbers' Shops within the Boroughs [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	28 May	40 days
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Battersea, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Borough [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	29 May	40 days
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Hairdressers' and Barbers' Shops within the Borough [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	29 May	40 days
Supreme Court (Rules),—Copy of Rules of the Supreme Court, dated 25th May 1906 [38 and 39 Vic., c. 77, s. 25]	30 May	40 days
Education (Scotland),—Copy of Regulations for the preliminary education, training, and certification of teachers for various grades of schools [35 and 36 Vic., c. 62, s. 67]	7 June	One month
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the County Borough of Burnley, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Borough [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	11 June	40 days
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the City and County of Bristol, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Horfield Ward of the City and County [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	13 June	40 days
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[AUTHORISED EDITION].

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Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.

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Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

Rt. Hon. Sir E. Grey.

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Rt. Hon. H. Gladstone.

Secretary of State for India

Rt. Hon. J. Morley.

Secretary for Scotland

Rt. Hon J. Sinclair.

Secretary of State for War

Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.

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